

**THE
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH**

**GENERAL
ASSEMBLY
1975**

5th — 9th MAY

THE CITY TEMPLE

Holborn Viaduct, London EC1A 2DE

**REPORTS
TO ASSEMBLY**

The United Reformed Church in England & Wales
86 Tavistock Place, London, WC1H 9RT

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The United Reformed Church

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

and other papers submitted to the

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

London, 5th—9th May, 1975

Minutes of the Executive Committee

At LONDON and within 86 Tavistock Place WC1H 9RT on the 6th June 1974, the EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE met and was constituted with prayer; since the Moderator was attending the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, the Revd Dr. Kenneth Slack presided.

⁵**Sederunt** There were also 46 members present.

Apologies Apologies for absence were received from 15 members and 3 members of staff.

Minutes The minutes of the meeting on 13th March 1974 being in the hands of members were confirmed and signed.

¹⁰The Minutes of the General Assembly were laid on the table.

Matters Arising from the Minutes The Clerk reported that there had been a Staff Consultation on the concern expressed at the previous meeting about the reporting in 'Reform' of consultations and committees. It had been agreed that the Editor should consult informally beforehand with the Secretaries of Departments as to the wisdom of reporting particular matters. The Executive approved this so far as it went; but desired that in addition to it there should also be an understanding that at any meeting members should be informed that a reporter was present and that any speaker in the discussion might claim that his remarks were "off the record".

²⁰ The acting Moderator spoke in the warmest praise of the reporting of the General Assembly in "Reform", and the Clerk was instructed to convey to Dr. Gregory the Executive's congratulations on an excellent production.

There was nothing further to report on Membership of District Councils.

On behalf of the Nominations Committee the Revd A. J. G. Walker moved ²⁵that Dr. John Huxtable be nominated to the FCFC as its Vice Moderator 1975—76, to serve as Moderator 1976—77. This was agreed with acclamation.

Matters Arising from General Assembly The Clerk reported that the Moderator had received a letter from the Home Secretary acknowledging ³⁰the Loyal Address sent to Her Majesty the Queen from the General Assembly.

The Clerk reported that the Revd Gareth Rees of Stratford on Avon had been wrongly described in the report of the Applications Committee to the General Assembly. He had been described as "formerly of the Australian Congregational Union", whereas after a short period of service in that capacity he had in fact been a minister of the Presbyterian Church of Australia in which he had served for thirteen years, having served as a Presbytery Clerk and Moderator of Presbytery. Since the record of the Assembly could not at this stage be corrected, it was agreed that Mr. Rees' status be properly recorded in these minutes. Since they would be reported to the next General Assembly, as full a correction as possible would have been made.

The Moderator had written after the General Assembly to the Secretaries of the Presbyterian Church of Southern Africa and of the United Congregational Church in Southern Africa, conveying greetings and expressing concern for them in their complicated situation and the pressures of their multi-racial community. Letters of thanks had been received from both Secretaries.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND:

Mutual Eligibility On behalf of the Moderator, the Clerk reported that the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland had received a deliverance from its Panel on Doctrine that there should exist between the Church of Scotland and the United Reformed Church the same mutual eligibility as had previously obtained between the Church of Scotland and the Presbyterian Church of England. This matter would now be dealt with by the Admissions Committee of the Church of Scotland who would, it was expected, report to the General Assembly next May.

On the motion of Mr. Hughes-Edwards, it was agreed that the General Secretaries should look into and report upon the arrangements for mutual eligibility between the United Reformed Church and the Presbyterian Churches in Wales and Ireland.

30 SYNOD MATTERS:

Berks., S. Oxon & S. Bucks. Cong. Union Inc. It was agreed that Mr. R. and the Revd Mrs. Joyce Painter be appointed additional Directors of the Berks., S. Oxon and S. Bucks Union Inc.

Blackburn It was reported that St. George's URC Blackburn and Four Lane Ends URC Blackburn had amalgamated, and would henceforth be known as The Revidge Fold URC.

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE:

The Revd A. J. G. Walker, Chairman of the Nominations Committee, reported that Mrs. Gwen Hall had tendered her resignation from the Chairmanship of the Church Life Department from 1st September 1974, having taken up a full-time teaching appointment, and that the present term of the Revd R. O. Latham's service as Secretary of the Department would shortly end. Mr. Walker indicated what steps the Nominations Committee proposed

to take to consider what nominations to bring forward in October in both respects. The Moderator expressed the great gratitude the whole Church felt for Mrs. Hall's distinguished service as Chairman of this department.

On the motion of the Revd A. J. G. Walker, the following appointments⁵ were made. Since it had not in all cases been possible to obtain the consent of those named, some nominations were subject to consent.

Committee on Provincial Moderatorships:

North Western: The Revd Dr. K. Slack (Chairman), the Revd Dr. J. Huxtable, Mr. L. R. Palmer, the Revds G. Cook, G. E. Hooper, Mrs. G. W. Main, the Revds¹⁰ G. Markham, T. J. Martin, B. M. Pratt, Mr. K. W. Thorndyke.

Yorkshire: Sir Harold Banwell (Chairman), the Rt. Revd A. L. Macarthur, the Revd Dr. J. Huxtable, Mr. W. Atherton, the Revds J. Johansen-Berg, W. N. Leak, W. E. Peters, T. Russell, R. G. Walker, J. E. Young.

West Midlands: Mr. L. R. Palmer (Chairman), the Revd Dr. J. Huxtable,¹⁵ the Revds R. R. Bance, Prof. M. H. Cressey, J. I. Evans, E. F. Jones, T. Glyndwr Jones, Mrs. C. Nesbitt, Miss A. Phillips, Mr. F. Cooper Watson.

South Western: The Rt. Revd A. L. Macarthur (Chairman), the Revd Dr. J. Huxtable, the Revds P. S. Chesney, H. E. Coltman, Miss J. W. Dollar, the Revd C. K. Forecast, Mrs. R. Goodfellow, the Revds A. Porter, D. Rhys,²⁰ M. B. Stolton.

Panel for Assessment Conferences:

Mr. P. J. Bunker, Mrs. M. Chesney, Mrs. R. Clarke, the Revds G. J. Cook, J. I. Evans, A. Frost, Mrs. R. Goodfellow, Mrs. G. Hall, the Revd K. Hendry, Mrs. M. Herbert, Mr. J. Huwison, the Revd M. F. Hubbard, Prof. J. H. E. Hull,²⁵ H. A. Jacquet, D. McIlhagga, B. Meachin, J. E. Newport, Mrs. B. Onions, Mr. C. Porteous, the Revds K. Sainsbury, R. K. Scopes, Mr. J. Simmonds, Mrs. E. M. Steel, Dr. D. A. Sykes, Mr. D. Thacker, the Revds I. Thomas, E. W. Todd, G. Williams, T. R. Willis, C. Wilton, together with the Provincial Moderator, the Principals of the Recognised Colleges and the General³⁰ Secretaries.

Sundry Vacancies:

- (a) Supplementary Ministries Committee: Mr. W. Atherton.
- (b) Doctrine and Worship Committee: The Revd Dr. J. Heywood Thomas.
- (c) Representatives to Homerton College (Trustees): The Revd A. J. Coates in place of the Revd D. P. C. Geddes; the Revd R. E. Taylor³⁵ in place of Dr. R. Pilkington.

Secretaryship of the Treasurership Committee:

Mr. P. A. Thorne in place of the Revd E. W. Todd.

British Council of Churches: Appointments to the three new Divisional Boards:

Ecumenical Affairs: The Revds Dr. J. Huxtable or the Rt. Revd A. L. MacArthur; Bishop Leslie Newbigin or the Revd Prof. M. H. Cressey; The Revd⁵M. Davies.

Community Affairs: The Revd J. Johansen-Berg, Miss Alison Shrubsole, Mr. Raymond Clarke, Dr. Clyde Binfield.

International Affairs: The Revd John Reardon, Mr. John Roper, M.P.

On the nomination to the Divisions in the BCC, it was to be noted (a) that¹⁰ it was thought that Bishop Newbigin would apply for ministerial status in the URC as soon as he took up his work in Selly Oak; (b) that Mr. Roper's nomination be conditional upon his being in membership of a URC congregation; and (c) that the matter of paying the expenses of those nominated be referred to the Finance Department.

¹⁵ On the motion of Mr. L. R. Palmer it was agreed to appoint Mr. P. A. Thorne an additional Director of C.U.E.W. Inc.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Church Life Department The Revd R. O. Latham reported that a question had been raised about one of the Basic Requirements listed in the leaflet²⁰ 'Called to the Ministry', which was sent as information to all who enquired about preparation for the ministry. The first basic requirement as stated is "to be an active baptized member of at least one year's standing of the United Reformed Church"; but it had been pointed out by a correspondent that this requirement had never been approved by the General Assembly.²⁵ Mr. Latham asked that the Executive Committee should give that approval; and the Executive agreed. During the discussion of this matter it was pointed out that to insist on one year's standing might be an unfortunate impediment to otherwise good candidates for the ministry; and it was eventually agreed that the small sub-committee of the Ministerial Training Committee which³⁰ deals with exemptions from examination requirements might bring to the October meeting of the Executive Committee indications of the circumstances in which this particular part of the requirement might be varied and on what authority.

Finance Department Mr. L. R. Palmer reminded the Committee that he³⁵ had been instructed by Assembly to ensure that central expenditure in 1975 did not exceed that planned for 1974. He had therefore asked Chairmen and Secretaries of Departments to make a thorough review of all activities for which they had any responsibility. He feared, however, that the curtailment of activities within the existing church structures would be insufficient to⁴⁰ deal with the situation if inflation continued at the rate of the past twelve months. A much more radical approach to the use of resources would then be necessary—possibly an inter-denominational one.

Mr. Palmer suggested that an appropriate body—possibly the Assembly Moderator's sub-Committee (see page 6)—should consider the committee structure of the URC—in particular how far membership of committee was intended to be representational and how far cost effective.

⁵ The Revd John White moved the following resolution :

Maintenance of the Ministry:

1. The Executive Committee resolves :
that with effect from 1st July 1974 the minimum rate of stipend payable to a minister in full charge shall be :
¹⁰ £1,350 per annum for the first ten years of service ;
£1,400 per annum for the next ten years of service ;
£1,450 per annum after twenty years.
2. The Executive Committee resolves :
that Rule 2 (1) of the Presbyterian Maintenance of the Ministry Fund be
¹⁵ amended accordingly.
3. The Executive Committee resolves :
that with effect from 1st July 1974 the minimum rates of stipend payable to a minister in a Scope (W) pastorate shall be :
²⁰ £1,250 per annum during the first 10 years of ministerial service ;
£1,300 per annum during the next ten years of ministerial service ;
£1,350 per annum after 20 years of ministerial service ;
and the Scope Ov maximum shall be £1,000 per annum from 1st July 1974.
4. The Executive Committee resolves :
²⁵ that for the purposes of the Congregational Ministers' Pension Fund the basic minimum stipend for the year 1974/1975 shall be £1,350.
This was agreed.

The Revd E. W. Todd moved that :

The Executive Committee resolves :

- ³⁰ That the leasehold property 47 Oakwood Close, Chase Road, Southgate, shall be vested in The Presbyterian Church of England Trust, and that John Elroy Hooper and Leslie Robert Palmer be authorised to be parties to the Assent of the property to the Trust.
This was agreed.

³⁵**Year Book** A document was circulated in the name of the Publications and Publicity Committee suggesting that the Year Book should be published in December 1974, November 1975, October 1976, and that thereafter in October in each succeeding year. After a suggestion that the Year Book might be published in January 1975 and thereafter in January of each
⁴⁰succeeding year had not found favour, it was agreed, on the motion of Sir Sydney Caffyn, to approve the dates set out by the Publications and Publicity Committee.

ASSEMBLY MODERATOR'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

The following memorandum was submitted to the Executive Committee:

The United Reformed Church

"The Scheme of Union (p. 84 of Manual) provides that "a small sub-committee to advise the Moderator and Clerk of the Assembly shall be appointed by and responsible to the Executive Committee". This sub-committee has not yet been set up, but an informal group consisting of the Moderator of the Assembly, the General Secretaries, and the Departmental Chairmen has met on three occasions in recent months to discuss questions of broad policy and general concern. Examples of the subjects discussed are: Implications of Church Extension; Main features of 1975 Budget; Long Term Location of tasks at Church House.

These informal discussions have proved most useful to the participants and they would like to suggest that the small sub-committee envisaged by the Scheme of Union should now be set up with the same membership, viz: The Moderator of Assembly as Chairman, with the General Secretary (or Secretaries), and Chairmen of Departments. The Committee would have no executive powers. Its terms of reference would be to consider any broad questions of concern to the Church which its members regard as important, or which may be referred to it by the Executive Committee. Any action identified as necessary or desirable would be remitted to the Executive Committee, to Provincial Moderators, and to Departments as appropriate for consideration. The Executive Committee could ask it to undertake investigations and to report. It would operate at a different level from the periodical staff meetings, at which full time senior staff at Church House discuss and clarify day to day matters of common concern."

This was approved.

Churches of Christ The following resolution was moved by the Clerk: The Executive Committee invites the Legal Advisers to proceed with examination of the legal and parliamentary process that will be required to enable the Churches of Christ and the United Reformed Church to come together, and authorises them at their discretion, and in consultation with the General Secretaries, and in agreement with the officers of the Churches of Christ, to approach Parliamentary Agents and Counsel. It asks the Finance and Administration Department to consult with the officials of the Churches of Christ with regard to the proper sharing of the cost, and to report.

This was agreed.

Membership of Assembly The Clerk proposed that the Revd B. G. Thorogood be made a member of the General Assembly. This was agreed.

The Revd T. Russell said that there were some matters about the form and manner of the General Assembly which he would like to have discussed at a future meeting of the Executive Committee. He agreed to submit a document which might be circulated to members of the Committee prior to the next meeting.

Dates of Future Meetings It had been agreed that the next meeting of the Executive should be on *Thursday, 3rd October 1974* at 1.30 p.m. It was also agreed that further meetings should be fixed as follows: Thursday, 16th January 1975; Thursday, 6th March 1975; Thursday, 5th June 1975; ⁵Thursday, 9th October 1975—all at 1.30 p.m.

Closure There being no further business the meeting was closed with prayer.

A. L. Macarthur, *Moderator*
John Huxtable, *Clerk*

¹⁰*At LONDON and within 86 Tavistock Place WC1H 9RT on 3rd October 1974 the EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE met and was constituted with prayer; the Moderator, The Rt. Revd A. L. Macarthur, presiding.*

Sederunt There were also 50 members present.

Apologies Apologies for absence were received from 12 members.

¹⁵**Minutes** Minutes of the meeting on 6th June being in the hands of members were confirmed and signed.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

Churches of Scotland, Ireland & Wales *Mutual Eligibility:* (p. 2) It was reported that little progress has been made in regard to this matter as ²⁰raised at the last Executive. The draft of an agreement with Scotland was submitted to the Chairman of the Applications Committee and Missionary and Ecumenical Work at Home Committee. The former raised some major points which have not yet been clarified with him but as soon as these have been resolved the draft agreement is ready to be forwarded to Scotland. Letters ²⁵have been sent both to Ireland and Wales in the terms of the last minute and following earlier letters. Interim replies have been received, but no report is yet ready.

Church Life Dept. *Chairman:* It was reported that the Nominations Committee, after consultation with representatives of the Church Life ³⁰Department, brought forward the name of the Revd Dr. K. Slack to succeed Mrs. Gwen Hall as Chairman of that Department. This was agreed unanimously.

Secretary: The sub-committee to make a recommendation about the Secretaryship of the Department had not yet met.

³⁵**Churches of Christ** *Legal Process:* The Negotiating Committee met this week and feels it is premature to set the legal process in train, though enquiries will be made of the three legal advisers concerned as to what may

be required, and its possible cost. Until some estimate has been received an agreement about a proportionate division ought to be delayed. The Churches of Christ Finance Committee has made some provision.

The subjects of Basic Requirements in 'Called to the Ministry' and the ⁵Assembly Business Report from Mr. Russell, were left to a later point in the agenda.

Churches Commission on Unity

The Clerk reported that the responses from the Churches to the Report issued by Talks about Talks had been most encouraging and that the new ¹⁰Commission would hold its first meeting on October 18th. He also intimated that the Executive Committee of Talks about Talks were minded to propose his name to be the Executive Officer of the Commission and that he would be willing so to serve if asked, provided that the Executive Committee were minded to release him from his present service. Having made this statement, ¹⁵the Clerk, together with the Moderator, withdrew from the meeting, so that Dr. Goodall could report on the Committee on the General Secretaryship. Dr. Slack took the Chair for this part of the meeting. After Dr. Goodall had made his report and various other matters had been discussed, the following resolution was passed on the motion of the Revd C. A. Haig seconded by ²⁰the Revd Peter McCall:

General Secretaryship "The Executive Committee notes and welcomes the possibility that Dr. John Huxtable will be invited to serve as Secretary of the Churches Unity Commission; in the event of him receiving and accepting such an invitation, the Committee releases him from the office ²⁵ of Joint General Secretary as from 31st December 1974."

Should this resolution come to be implemented, then the Executive Committee resolved that from the 1st January 1975 the Revd A. L. Macarthur shall serve as sole General Secretary and Clerk of the General Assembly. After this resolution had been passed the Moderator and the Clerk returned ³⁰to the meeting and were informed of the result of the discussion and action in their absence. The Committee then continued its discussion of Dr. Goodall's report, and it was agreed to refer to the Moderator's Advisory Committee in the first instance the study of the rearrangement of duties in Church House so as to avoid overlapping.

³⁵**Committees Structure** It was also agreed that this same Committee should undertake a radical review of the departmental structure of the Church Committees, and that the Moderator's Advisory Committee should call in aid two persons (preferably with one from outside the organisation). It was hoped that Mr. L. R. Palmer would act as the "internal expert". Dr. ⁴⁰Goodall was warmly thanked for the way in which he had conducted these important and sensitive negotiations.

SYNOD MATTERS:

The following nominations were reported:

Provincial Moderators *Yorkshire:* The Revd Alasdair Walker had been nominated to serve as Provincial Moderator in the Yorkshire Province, and had consented to the nomination going forward to the General Assembly of 1975.

North West: The Revd Douglas Stewart had been nominated to serve as Provincial Moderator for a further period in the North West Province.

West Midlands: The Revd R. W. Hugh Jones had been nominated to serve as Provincial Moderator for a further period in the West Midland Province.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Church Life The Revd R. O. Latham referred to the Basic Requirement in 'Called to the Ministry' and reported that the Ministerial Training Committee suggested an amendment to the first requirement as follows: "to be an active baptized member normally of at least one year's standing in the United Reformed Church. Where exceptions to the normal rule were requested by a District Committee, the Exemptions Sub-Committee of the Ministerial Training Committee should have authority to decide the matter." This was agreed.

Mr. Latham referred to Mrs. Gwen Hall's retirement from the Chairmanship of the Church Life Department and spoke of her fine leadership during the first two years of the Church's life and of the excellence of her reports to Assembly. It was cordially agreed that the Moderator should send Mrs. Hall a letter conveying the gratitude of the Committee. Mr. Latham also reported that Dr. Erik Routley would be resigning from the Chairmanship of the Doctrine & Worship Committee on his forthcoming departure to a professorship in Church Music in Princeton, New Jersey. The Moderator would write to thank Dr. Routley for his very distinguished leadership.

The Secretary further reported that the Revd John Sutcliffe had become the General Secretary of the Christian Education Movement. He had served the Department with real distinction and would take our good wishes to his new work. The Moderator would write to him advising him of our goodwill and continuing interest in his work.

The Revd Michael Davies introduced a matter on Youth Leadership Training Officers, which was a modification of the resolutions passed at the Assembly last May (see Minutes of Assembly 1974, p. 21). Mr. Davies proposed that, since the plan as originally proposed was not now financially possible, Youth Leadership Training Officers should be appointed where possible to serve regions (e.g. two Provinces). The following resolutions were approved:

1. The Executive Committee approves the modified scheme, as presented by the Youth Secretary, for the appointment of Regional Youth Leadership Training Officers, as funds become available, in place of a National YLTO and Provincial YLTOs.

2. The Executive Committee instructs the Nominations Committee to set up a YLTO Sub-Committee, which shall have authority to make YLTO appointments and to determine the terms of reference and conditions of service of YLTOs, in consultation with the Youth Committee and the Provinces⁵ concerned with any appointment under consideration.

3. The Executive Committee ratifies the appointment of Mr. Brian Harris as Regional YLTO for the Northern and Yorkshire Provinces with effect from 1st January 1975 for a period of three years in the first instance, subject to the final approval of the Northern Province.

¹⁰**Church and Society** The Revd J. P. Reardon, Secretary of the Church & Society Department, reported that the British Council of Churches' proposals about an Investment Unit seemed likely not to come to fruition through lack of financial support. The Methodist Church, however, proposed to go forward in the matter in connection with Christian Concern for Southern Africa¹⁵ (CCSA). Other Churches and charitable bodies could make use of this organisation if they desired. It was agreed, on the motion of the Treasurer, that the Church should use this facility and make some appropriate payment for the services rendered.

World Church & Mission The Revd B. M. Pratt requested that two²⁰ Youth Representatives should attend Department meetings as observers, and this was agreed.

It was reported that if the URC and the Churches of Christ formed a united Church, a new situation would arise in Scotland, for some Churches of Christ were there and have expressed a strong desire to be part of such a²⁵ united Church, if it be formed. The two General Secretaries were empowered to consult the appropriate officers of our sister Churches in Scotland on this possible situation.

Finance and Administration The Treasurer reported that Budgets for 1976 were in course of preparation and that he would be consulting the³⁰ Departments in Church House with a view to forming an agreed view.

The Revd John White spoke about the heavy burden now resting upon ministers as self-employed persons, and asked whether any action could be taken to reconsider their self-employed status. Mr. Todd said that the Churches Main Committee had the matter under active consideration and were awaiting³⁵ a reply from the Ministry.

Assembly Business Mr. T. Russell raised the matter about which he had given notice at the previous meeting. He expressed three concerns: that too much time was taken in Assembly over speeches by Corresponding Members, that a disproportionate time was spent in considering the ministry to the⁴⁰ exclusion of matters more closely related to the local church, and that the Executive Committee reflected some of these faults also. During the discussion a good deal of support was found for Mr. Russell's concerns, and it was agreed that they should be further considered by the Assembly Moderators, Advisory Committee and the Business Committee.

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE:

The Revd A. J. G. Walker presented the report of the Nominations Committee which was approved as follows:

Chairman of Church Life Department The Revd Dr. K. Slack.

⁵**Commission on Unity** The Revd Dr. J. Huxtable (or Revd A. L. Macarthur); the Revds C. A. Haig, Dr. K. Slack and Mrs. E. M. Steel (Alternate: The Revd M. H. Cressey).

Corresponding Members:

¹⁰ Church of Scotland: The Moderator-elect (The Revd Principal G. B. Caird); The Revds R. O. Latham, A. J. G. Walker, and Mr. K. W. Thorndyke.

Congregational Union of Scotland: The Revd Dr. J. Huxtable.

Presbyterian Church in Ireland: The Moderator-elect; The Revd D. P. C. Geddes*; Mr. J. E. Hooper.*

Union of Welsh Independents: The Revd D. Rhys.

¹⁵ Presbyterian Church of Wales: The Rt. Revd A. L. Macarthur; the Revd Wynford Evans* and Mrs. E. M. Steel.*

Synod of the Waldensian Church: The Moderator-elect.

Church Life Central Committee: Member under 25: Mr. Ian Ring.

Supplementary Ministries Committee: Mrs. O. Russell (subject to consent).

²⁰ Panel for Assessment Conferences: Mr. W. Carruthers, Mrs. P. E. P. Sessions (Mr. P. J. Bunker and Mr. J. Huitson not being able to serve).

CWM Board: The Revd J. Halfpenny and the Revd D. C. Morgan.

Caterham School: The Revd T. Perry.

²⁵ Congregational College, Manchester: The Revd W. N. Leak (subject to consent).

Milton Mount Foundation: Miss Ruth Thompson, in place of Mrs. Gwen Hall.

Tottenham College: The Revd J. C. Campbell.

³⁰ **Assembly Moderator's Advisory Committee** Mr. L. R. Palmer spoke of the matters at present under consideration by the Assembly Moderator's Advisory Committee, about which a report would be made when the considerations were completed.

³⁵ **Stewardship** A report presented by Mr. Palmer (see Appendix) was approved, and it was agreed that the Assembly Moderator's Advisory Committee gather the appropriate group.

Berks., S. Oxon & S. Bucks Congl. Un. Inc. At the request of the Berks, South Oxon & South Bucks Congregational Union Inc. it was agreed to appoint Mr. Michael L. King of Oxford as a Director in place of the Revd A. F. Griffiths, who had retired.

⁵Next Meeting The next meeting was confirmed for 16th January 1975 at 1.30 p.m.

Closure There being no further business the meeting closed with the Grace.

A. L. Macarthur, *Moderator*

E. W. Todd, *Acting Clerk*

¹⁰ * Subject to acceptance.

At LONDON and within 86 Tavistock Place WC1H 9RT on 16th January 1975 the EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE met and was constituted with prayer; the Moderator, The Rt. Revd A. L. Macarthur, presiding.

Sederunt There were also 54 members present.

¹⁵Apologies Apologies for absence were received from 12 members.

Minutes Minutes of the meeting on 3rd October 1974 being in the hands of members were confirmed and signed (with the addition of the name of the Revd S. A. Sheppard to the list of apologies).

Assistant Clerk The Moderator intimated that owing to the fact that Dr. ²⁰Huxtable had now taken up the appointment with the Churches' Unity Commission, he had asked the Revd E. W. Todd (Assistant Clerk at the May Assembly) to act as Clerk. It was agreed to convey to Dr. John Huxtable the greetings of the Executive.

Acknowledgment The Revd E. W. Todd intimated an acknowledgment ²⁵from Mrs. Gwen Hall of the letter of thanks sent to her.

Personalia The Moderator referred to the fact that the Revd R. O. Latham was visiting Bangladesh as Chairman of CWM, and it was agreed that he should also represent the URC and convey greetings and good wishes on its behalf.

³⁰**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MINUTES**

Mutual Eligibility The Moderator intimated that progress had been made in regard to Mutual Eligibility with the Church of Scotland and the present position had been reported to the M & EW At Home Committee and the Applications Committee. It had been intimated to Ireland and Wales that it ³⁵would be helpful if what ultimately emerges could be applicable to all.

Moderator's Advisory Committee

(i) Office Reconstruction. Mr. Palmer reported on behalf of the Assembly Moderator's Advisory Committee in regard to Church House Staffing and Departmental Structures. The two experts in the field of organisation and method had spent a full day at Church House and were continuing their investigations, and it was agreed that their report, when received, should be considered in the first instance by the Moderator's Advisory Committee and thereafter by the Executive Committee for implementation.

(ii) Stewardship. The report of the inter-departmental group on Christian Stewardship had been circulated and the Revd C. K. Meachin spoke to it. After questions and discussion it was agreed that the group would report to the Assembly in the light of this preliminary discussion and their own further consideration of the issues involved.

(iii) Appointment & re-appointment of Provincial Moderators. A report concerning the appointing and re-appointing of Provincial Moderators had been circulated. Considerable discussion followed and it was moved and seconded that Sections 4 (1) (2) (a) & (b) should form the report to Assembly. An amendment to refer back the report of the Moderator's Advisory Committee was defeated, and the original motion was put as the substantive motion, and agreed. (See E.C. Appendix 2, Page 18).

Venue of 1976 Assembly The Clerk reported that so far no invitation had been received from any Province regarding the place of meeting for the 1976 Assembly, and asked the Executive for its wishes. It was moved and seconded that the 1976 Assembly meet in London. It was moved as an amendment that Provinces be asked to consider as a matter of urgency whether they could invite the Assembly to meet within their bounds, and if so, to issue the necessary invitation before the March meeting of the Executive. This was carried. On being put as the substantive motion it became the finding of the Executive.

It was further stressed that a pattern for future meetings was desirable and it was agreed to discuss the whole matter in the light of replies received.

1975 Assembly Business Sir Harold Banwell reported on behalf of the Business Committee that several requests had been received for time for more adequate discussion of matters of importance by the General Assembly and by the Councils of the Church. The Business Committee would endeavour to order the business in the best possible way.

Comments had also been received regarding the Loyal Address, and it was agreed that for the time being the Loyal Address should be retained but attention paid to its content.

40 SYNOD MATTERS

S. W. Province Moderator: The Revd John Young reported for the information of the Executive that the Committee appointed to consider this matter unanimously recommended that the Revd Charles A. Haig be re-

appointed Provincial Moderator of the South West Province until the date of his retirement, 30th September 1977.

Yorkshire Province Sheffield District. The Clerk reported that a request had been received through the Yorkshire Synod that the name of the Sheffield District be changed to "South Yorkshire", and this was agreed.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

World Church & Mission

(i) Churches of Christ. It was reported that the issues raised by the conversations between the URC and the Churches of Christ had been referred¹⁰ by the Church of Scotland to the Committee for Multilateral Conversations, and that the United Free Church of Scotland saw no reason why their relationship in Scotland would be prejudiced by the present conversations between the URC and the Churches of Christ.

(ii) Prof. M. H. Cressey to visit Canada. The Revd B. M. Pratt reported that¹⁵ Professor M. H. Cressey had been appointed to represent the URC at the Consultation on Church Union in Canada in the summer of 1975, and half of his expenses would be met by the URC and the other half by the WCC. The Executive authorised Professor Cressey to represent the URC at any meetings of the United Church of Canada and the Presbyterian Church in²⁰ Canada which he might be able to attend.

(iii) St. Andrew's Hall, Selly Oak. The Committee recommended that the URC continue to support the work of St. Andrew's Hall, subject to certain considerations, and that so far as it can foretell its ability, the URC will provide up to £5,000 per annum for this purpose. The Executive agreed.

²⁵(iv) Secretaryship of Departments. In view of the situation created by Dr. Huxtable's appointment to the Churches' Unity Commission, it was agreed on the recommendation of the WC&M Department that the Revd Boris Anderson be appointed Secretary of the Department and that the Revd A. L. Macarthur be Secretary of the Missionary and Ecumenical Work At Home³⁰ Committee.

Finance and Administration

(i) Budgets. Mr. L. R. Palmer reminded the Executive that the 1975 Unified Appeal target had been fixed at the same level as 1974. Continuing inflation created grave difficulties. The Unified Appeal Committee had been asked to³⁵ review the situation in the light of the 1974 results; an increase in 1976 was inevitable.

(ii) Maintenance of the Ministry. The Revd E. W. Todd spoke on the policy of the Committee and the necessity to increase the basic stipend. He moved that the Executive Committee resolves that with effect from 1st January 1975

the minimum rates of stipend payable to a minister in full charge shall be £1,440 p.a. for the first ten years of service; £1,490 p.a. for the next ten years of service, and £1,540 per annum after 20 years.

This was agreed.

⁵ Mr. Todd reminded the Committee that the General Assembly in 1974 had, on the request of the Church Life Department, placed responsibility for recommendations in regard to the salaries of Deaconesses with the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee. He further moved that the Executive Committee resolves that with effect from 1st January 1975 the salary scale ¹⁰for Deaconesses shall be: During the first five years of service £1,110; during the second five years of service £1,160; during the third five years of service £1,210; during the fourth five years of service £1,260; and after 20 years of service £1,310.

This was agreed.

¹⁵Unified Scheme. Mr. Todd reported that work on the Unified Scheme had continued in the light of comments received from District Councils and Synods. He said that while the report would be given to the Assembly, it was desirable that as much publicity as possible should be given to the new Unified Scheme before the Assembly, and asked leave of the Executive to ²⁰publicise the draft Scheme.

This was agreed.

(iii) Ministers and Social Security Contributions. Mr. Todd referred to the circular letter which had been sent out on this subject, and briefly recapitulated the salient points.

²⁵The report was received.

(iv) Great Salkeld Fund. Mr. Todd outlined the position in regard to this Fund, of which the Presbyterian Church of England Trust was trustee, and moved: "That the Executive Committee agrees to the making of a grant from the Great Salkeld Fund for the extension of church premises at Whitehaven, ³⁰subject to the concurrence of the Northern Synod".

The Executive Committee agreed.

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

The Chairman of the Nominations Committee, the Revd A. J. G. Walker, reported as a matter of information:

³⁵1. The Committee will recommend to the General Assembly that the date of expiry of the periods of service in the case of Departmental, Associate and Assistant Secretaryships shall normally be 31st August of the appropriate year.

⁴⁰2. *Secretaryship of Church Life Department:* The Committee will recommend to the General Assembly that the Revd R. O. Latham be re-appointed for a further period of five years.

He then moved the following appointments :

(1) The appointment of an Assistant Clerk of the General Assembly (to serve for three years). Agreed.

(2) The Revd P. S. Chesney (1975—77). Agreed.

⁵*Corresponding Members:*

P.C. in Ireland: Mr. Alan Davies, subject to consent (in place of Mr. J. E. Hooper).

P.C. of Wales: Mrs. J. T. Morgan.

(3) Sundry Vacancies (subject to consent).

¹⁰*WC&M Central:* Mrs. Rhoda M. Smith (Province III).

Publications & Publicity Committee: The Revd E. A. Banyard (in place of the Revd Colin Evans).

BCC Scholarships Committee: The Revd P. C. Jupp (URC Chaplain to Students in London).

¹⁵*Homerton—Representative Trustees:* Mrs. O. J. Boulind, the Revds C. J. Buckingham, A. J. Coates, Mr. F. F. C. Edmonds, the Revd J. E. Newport, Mrs. H. S. Stanley, the Revd R. E. Taylor, Dr. R. Watson.

Maintenance of the Ministry: Miss D. J. Biggs, following the departure from the U.K. of Mrs. Doris Cornford.

²⁰**Caleb Bailey Trust** The Moderator of the South Western Province, the Revd Charles Haig, requested at the instance of the Synod the appointment of Messrs. R. C. Pelley, G. R. Thomas and R. Escot as trustees of the Caleb Bailey Trust. On the motion of the Clerk the request was granted, and the aforesaid persons duly appointed.

²⁵**New Church Praise** In regard to the presentation of New Church Praise to the General Assembly the Clerk moved that Mr. Peter Cutts and (if an invitation is necessary) the Revd T. Caryl Micklem be invited to be present at the Session of the Assembly when the book was presented, and this was agreed.

³⁰**Yorkshire Congregational Union** The Committee of Management of the Yorkshire Congregational Union had recommended that the Revd A. J. G. Walker become a member of the Union, and the Clerk moved in terms of Section 7 (2) of the United Reformed Church Act 1972 that the Revd A. J. G. Walker be appointed a member of the Union. This was agreed.

³⁵**Next Meeting** The next meeting was confirmed for the 6th March 1975 at 1.30 p.m.

Closure There being no further business the meeting was closed with the saying of the Grace.

A. L. Macarthur, *Moderator*
E. W. Todd, *Acting Clerk*

RESOLUTIONS

1. The Assembly appoints the Revd A. J. G. Walker as Moderator of the Yorkshire Province for a period of seven years from 1st September, 1975.
2. The Assembly re-appoints the Revd Douglas G. Stewart as Moderator of the North Western Province for a further period of five years from 1st September, 1975.
3. The Assembly re-appoints the Revd Charles A. Haig as Moderator of the South West Province up to the date of his retirement on 30th September, 1977.
4. The Assembly re-appoints the Revd R. W. Hugh Jones as Moderator of the West Midlands Province for a further period of three years from 1st September, 1975.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: APPENDIX 1

Stewardship—Scheme of Union

1. The proposals adopted by the Assembly for the setting up of Departments and Committees allowed for some overlap of functions. These can be worked through as we go on. The provisions for dealing with the whole question of Stewardship may seem to create such overlapping. Within the functions of the Church Life Department and those of Christian Education in particular is the following:

'it is envisaged that the whole range of Christian Education will come within the scope of this Committee; it would deal with the production of material and the getting across to members of what is involved in Christian Stewardship and the 'ministry' of the whole Church, as well as with schemes of Christian Education in the wider sense' (ref: p. 80 (d) Manual).

The description of the functions of the Unified Appeal Committee includes the following:

'Unified Appeal Committee; which shall consider the financial needs of the Church at home and overseas and how the necessary funds can be raised' (p. 83 (d) Manual).

We believe that there is need for some co-ordination and that the presentation of the challenge of Stewardship must not be allowed to fall between the two bodies.

2. Church Life Department Stewardship Group

The Church Life Department set up a small Group to report to the Department through the Christian Education Committee.

The Group prepared a short statement on the concept of Christian Stewardship and made several recommendations on possible ways of presenting 'CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP' to our Churches. The Church Life Department received the report of the Group and decided to incorporate the suggestions of the Group in a two year Study Action Project to be prepared by the Christian Education Committee in collaboration with the other Departments of the Church.

3. The Finance & Administration Department

The Unified Appeal Committee has now been able to draw its programme together into one Appeal and is concerned that the Church as a whole shall be fully informed about the varied needs the Appeal covers and challenged to support it to the full.

4. Conclusion

It is important that the concept of Stewardship be rescued from any identification with a money appeal and indeed the word itself may for the present have lost its usefulness, but this whole side of Christian Discipleship needs to be freshly presented to the Church. The Church Life Department and the Finance and Administration Department therefore recommend to the Executive Committee the setting up of an inter-departmental group to prepare a statement on the concept of Christian Stewardship for presentation to the General Assembly 1975 and prepare material to be used in Districts and Churches to help them implement a programme of Christian Stewardship.

The Chairman of the Group to be Mr. R. S. Martin and the Revd C. K. Meachin to act as Secretary of the Group.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: APPENDIX 2

20 Appointment and Re-appointment of Provincial Moderators

It was decided at the Meeting of the Executive Committee held on 16th January 1975 that the procedure to be followed in future should be.

1. In all cases where a new Provincial Moderator must be appointed—that is, where a Moderator is due to retire, or has intimated his unwillingness to accept a further term, or is to be appointed elsewhere (or where the Assembly had exercised its right to terminate his service)—the Committee appointed to make the nomination to the Assembly shall meet normally within the Province concerned and normally in the autumn prior to the year in which the new appointment is to be made (thus allowing time for subsequent consultation and further meetings, should these prove necessary).

2. Where a Moderator could well be re-appointed, one or other of the following processes shall be followed, the decision as to which being made by the Executive Committee on the advice of the Nominations Committee (which shall in all cases be responsible for the first steps towards the appointment of the Committee):

(a) The Committee shall be appointed in time and with such membership as will enable it to meet on the Monday of the Assembly week in the year before the Moderator's term ends;

(b) The Committee shall be appointed in time and with such membership as will enable it to meet on the morning of the day on which the Executive Committee meets, provided that this is not later than the January of the year in which the Assembly must decide upon the question of re-appointment.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: APPENDIX 3

Christian Stewardship

The Executive Committee of the United Reformed Church meeting on October 3rd, 1974, accepted and approved a recommendation from the Church Life Department and the Finance and Administration Department to set up an interdepartmental group charged with the task of preparing a statement on the concept of Christian Stewardship for presentation to the General Assembly 1975 and prepare material to be used in Districts and Churches to help them implement a programme of Christian Stewardship.

¹⁰ The Assembly Moderator's Advisory Committee appointed Mr. R. S. Martin (Chairman), Revd C. K. Meachin (Secretary), Mr. J. Gilbey, Revd E. F. Jones and Mr. L. Palmer as members of the group.

The group request the Executive Committee to include the following report with its attendant resolutions in the Report to the General Assembly ¹⁵1975. The group further requests that Mr. R. S. Martin be invited to present the Report to Assembly.

The word *Stewardship* is defined in terms of 'an individual entrusted with the management of another's property'. *Christian Stewardship* is defined in terms of response to God in Christ as individuals and churches entrusted ²⁰with the management of His creation; personally and corporately responsible and accountable as individuals and churches, for the use we make of the great gifts we have from God.

The Moderator-elect of the Church of Scotland, Revd J. A. Matheson speaking on the subject of Christian Stewardship, said:

²⁵ "We have been engaged in Stewardship, at a point which the Church as a whole must take up urgently, that is, the meaning of membership of the Church. Experience of Stewardship campaigns convinces us that the quality of membership is one of the crucial issues for the Church in the years ahead. **It must come to mean more to be a Member of the** ³⁰ **Church.** The commitment which is implied needs to be spelled out more firmly. This will not mean a narrowing of interest or an inverted piety. On the contrary. It will mean that members know they have a responsibility for mission. The Church will continue to be ingrowing and burdened with its own weight, until its members recognise what it exists for. They need ³⁵ to be trained to take their proper share in the Church's mission in industry, education, political life, and especially in the area of home and family life".

Mr. Matheson stressed the importance of the local congregation. He gave the first priority for mission as the renewal of the life of local congregations in teaching and in pastoral care.

⁴⁰ *Doctrine, Faith and Belief* itself are in question. Baptism, Confirmation, Church Membership, Eldership, Ordination; Holy Communion, Salvation, Redemption, Grace; the Person of Christ, the Trinity, the very fact of God;

these are terms around which the major issues of belief raised by the world are centred. The Church faces a crisis of credibility today and while the union which brought the United Reformed Church into being has had a stimulating effect upon some congregations, many churches remain untouched in the⁵ quality of their spiritual life and in the effectiveness of their witness and service. Urgent and informed debate, guided by the best theological expertise available is needed in order to help members understand their faith, and all that follows from it, more deeply.

The Christian Church in Britain Faces Many Crises:—

¹⁰ **of Worship and Preaching** Almost everywhere attendance at worship services continue to decline. A variety of reasons are put forward to account for this decline, one being that most worship services are irrelevant to contemporary needs. A careful examination of the content of worship is necessary, along with an awareness that it is never enough only to introduce¹⁵ new hymns, use new translations of the Bible and encourage congregational participation. Experiments will prove superficial if they are only concerned with music, words and forms. It is necessary to re-discover the human dimension which can be experienced in worship—that immediate, spontaneous and responsive experience of faith through which²⁰ the men and women of today can meet God.

²⁵ **of Christian Education** The impact of the media and the radical examination of traditional educational methods which has taken place during recent years has forced the Church to ask fundamental questions about the Christian education provided by the Church for children, young people and adults. Churches should take courage and face the necessary changes that must take place in the life of local congregations if the new insights and methods of Christian education are to be introduced.

³⁰ **of Life Style** Environmental responsibility and social justice on a world scale, demand changes in personal as well as national ways of life. Christians will have to face the need for a simplicity of life which is generous to others and content with enough rather than with excess. It has been said, 'Christians must live more simply than others may simply live'.

³⁵ **of Cost** Many churches fail to estimate the true cost of providing for the full time Ministry, of the buildings they use and of making an adequate contribution to the wider church. Even on the basis of the minimum stipend and allowing for housing, transport and other expenses, the true cost of a full time Minister can exceed £3,000 a year. Some churches spend almost as much on heating, lighting and maintaining their premises. It is not surprising therefore that they face a real difficulty in finding a reasonable⁴⁰ sum for the wider work of the Church. Perhaps it is not so much a case of too few ministers as too many church buildings. In some situations only an ecumenical approach is likely to provide a solution.

⁴⁵ Churches have the added problem of inflation. They are not immune from rising prices for the goods and services they need. Unless church members raise the level of their giving regularly to meet higher costs, a church, once viable, no longer remains so. Even the biggest churches are at risk.

We are told that before we undertake any enterprise we need to count the cost. We must take this advice literally and repeatedly.

of **Recruitment** Most congregations are desperately short of leaders and teachers, the burden of the work load being carried by a handful of people. Few people are willing to give their time and ability to undertake the many jobs that need to be done in every local congregation. In most churches not many men and women are offering themselves for full time service in the church at home and fewer offering to serve overseas.

RESPONSE

¹⁰The Church has the right and duty to embark honestly, realistically and enthusiastically upon a programme of Christian Stewardship, calling upon all men and on all governments to be good stewards of the resources of our planet.

Different churches will use different approaches to Christian Stewardship; ¹⁵this report is intended to raise some of the issues to help the ongoing discussion. Christian Stewardship material in the form of resource packs, kits stewardship campaigns etc. is available from other denominational offices. The Church of Scotland, The Methodist Church, The Baptist Union, The Churches of Christ, some Dioceses of the Church of England, all produce ²⁰stewardship material. The United Reformed Church Christian Stewardship group hopes to produce a small booklet to help congregations understand the problems involved in Christian Stewardship programmes and suggesting ways in which churches might tackle the problems.

Information about available material can be obtained from:—

²⁵*Secretary of the Christian Stewardship Group,
The United Reformed Church,
86 Tavistock Place, London. WC1H 9RT.*

RESOLUTIONS

- ³⁰ 1. The Assembly commends to Synods, District Councils, Elders and Church Meetings, the study and implementation of *CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP* as a means towards the renewal of our churches and a more responsible use of resources of *PEOPLE PLANT and £££'s* and asks them to report action taken and future plans to the Secretary of the Stewardship Group by **November 30th, 1975.**
- ³⁵ 2. The Assembly emphasises that the call to *CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP* is a call to local congregations and individual members of the Church to re-examine their *LIFE-STYLE*, and under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to plan realistically the use of all resources committed to them, in the light of continuously changing opportunities.
- ⁴⁰ 3. The Assembly recalls the positive lead given by the United Reformed Church towards the visible unity of all Christian people; encourages congregations to pursue ecumenical co-operation locally and to examine the call to *CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP* in consultation with neighbouring churches of all denominations.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: APPENDIX 4

Apportionment of Resources between United and Non-Uniting Churches

The work of this group follows much the same lines as were reported to last⁵ Assembly. A good deal of progress has been made. An application for a Scheme has been made and it is hoped that before long the Charity Commissioners will publish it. Much detailed work has been done in preparing detailed statements for the Charity Commissioners and in addition to the work which the Revd E. W. Todd and Mr. P. A. Simpson have continued to do,¹⁰ we wish also to express gratitude to Mr. J. Donald Green who has joined the Group as a Consultant and has given much time and thought to this complex task. The percentage figures on which the division of the central funds of C.U.E.W. Inc. will be made, as published last year, may receive some minor revision in the light of representations made to us. We have continued to¹⁵ make payments on account to the Congregational Federation and the Evangelical Fellowship of Congregational Churches, subject to adjustment when final agreement has been made.

The Charity Commissioners have under consideration applications for Schemes in respect of two Incorporated County Unions—Somerset and²⁰ Cambs and Hunts, and have prepared a draft in respect of the latter. Discussion is proceeding with a view to clarifying the principles on which such schemes can be established, and it is hoped that work in respect of other County Unions can then proceed more quickly.

The Rt. Revd Arthur L. Macarthur, *Chairman*

25

The Revd Dr. John Huxtable, *Secretary*

APPLICATIONS COMMITTEE

The Committee has met twice during the year. The Revd A. L. Macarthur has become its secretary since Dr. Huxtable entered upon his new appointment. The Committee records its gratitude to Dr. Huxtable for his service,³⁰ greatly supported in this by Miss Diana Jones, both in the URC and in the former Status Committee of the CCEW.

The Committee has helped the Clerks of Assembly in their keeping of the roll of ministers and reports the following resignations and admissions:

Resignations from pastoral charge: The Revds David Murray Cuckson,³⁵ Keith Edmund Jones, John Jewsbury, David Stapleton, Anthony David Tucker.

Resignations from the Ministry: The Revds John A. Atken, Arthur Howard Cross, David J. Groves, Geoffrey J. Macgregor.

Transfers to other Churches: The Revds Alan Lewis Baxter, Clifford⁴⁰ Hill, Douglas Edric Legge, David Arthur Spivey.

Admissions: By Ordination: The Revds George Clifford G. Bembridge, Bernard Collins, Ian Cope, Richard F. Davies, Anity Margaret Evans, Peter Heckels, Cecil John Kightley, Anthony Roger Lee, Ronald Manley, Peter R. Mark, John Antony Pugh, George Ernest Smart, Olive Doreen Symes, Ian⁵White, Rodney J. Wood, Arthur E. Circus.

By transfer from other Churches: The Revds Dr. E. C. Blackman, Martyn Carr, James Hardyman, Bruce Kenrick, David Mills, Dr. Lesslie Newbiggin, L. H. Oldfield, John Parry, T. A. Smail.

The Revd T. A. Nicholson's name had been removed in error and he remains¹⁰ on the roll of ministers.

Local Pastors The Committee also took note of the following additions to the Register of Local Pastors:

Mr. George Coombs	Mr. Ellis Tomlinson
Mr. Leslie Fidgen	Mr. Frank A. Richards
¹⁵ Mr. Brian Oosthuysen	Mr. Norman Singleton
	Mr. H. H. Wiles

Applications from Churches The Committee submits applications to be received as local churches of the URC duly supported by their provinces from

Cold East, Devon
Yarm Road Memorial Church, Stockton
²⁰ Panshanger United Church, Welwyn Garden City

and will propose that they be received.

Brill, Bucks., in process, a report will be made to Assembly.

Request to secede The Committee has considered a request from the church at Bishops Itchington to secede and will submit an appropriate²⁵ resolution.

Mutual Eligibility Negotiations have proceeded with officers of the College and Ministry Department of the Church of Scotland with a view to the establishment of a mutual eligibility agreement between that Church and the URC. An agreed draft is printed as an appendix to this report. The³⁰ Missionary and Ecumenical Work at Home Committee in its concern for inter-church relations has also studied this, and supports the Committee in proposing its approval. Some members of Assembly may find the concept of mutual eligibility difficult and liable to be confused with the different question of the recognition of ministries. This agreement concerns³⁵ the processes of call and transfer only, and if established will make it possible for ministers whose training is comparable with that of the receiving Church to be called in either direction without requiring the approval of the Applications Committees of the respective Churches. Ministers of either Church whose training does not qualify them for this unhindered exchange would⁴⁰ still be eligible to be considered through the Applications procedures laid down. The Committee welcomes this as a significant step in the establishment of sisterly relationships between the Churches, and hopes for its achievement. Correspondence is proceeding with the Presbyterian Church in Ireland in the hope that the agreement may eventually include ministerial⁴⁵ transfers to and from that Church.

Pastoral Action As Provinces had found some difficulty in dealing with cases requiring pastoral action a memorandum of advice was prepared by the Chairman and after careful consideration has been circulated to the Moderators for guidance.

5

RESOLUTIONS

1. The Assembly receives Cold East, Devon; Yarm Road Memorial Church, Stockton; and Panshanger United Church, Welwyn Garden City, as local churches of the United Reformed Church.
2. The Assembly grants the application of the church at Bishops Itchington to secede
10 from the United Reformed Church, and agrees to support an application to the Charity Commissioners for a scheme to administer the property thereof for the benefit of the local church.
3. The Assembly approves the terms of the proposed Mutual Eligibility Agreement between
15 the Church of Scotland and the United Reformed Church, and subject to its acceptance by the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland undertakes to regulate the transfer of ministers in accordance with it.

APPLICATIONS COMMITTEE: APPENDIX

Draft Act Anent Election, Settlement and Translation of Ministers.

The General Assembly adopt the Overture, the tenure thereof follows, and
20 transmit the same to the Presbyteries for their consideration under the Barrier Act, directing that returns be sent in not later than 31st December 1975. The General Assembly at the same time convert the Overture into an Interim Act to apply to all vacancies which occur on or after 1st August 1975.

The General Assembly with consent of the majority of Presbyteries enact
25 and ordain:

1. Probationers and ministers formerly of the Church of Scotland who have become ministers of the United Reformed Church shall be eligible to be nominated for election to a vacant charge of the Church of Scotland provided they produce a Certificate from the Clerk to the General Assembly of the
30 United Reformed Church that they are in good standing in the ministry of that Church.

2. Probationers and ministers formerly of the Presbyterian Church of England and the Congregational Church in England and Wales who have become ministers of the Church of Scotland shall be eligible to be nominated
35 for election to a vacant charge of the United Reformed Church provided they produce a Certificate from the Principal Clerk of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland that they are in good standing in the ministry of that Church.

3. Ministers of the United Reformed Church shall be eligible to be nominated
40 to a vacant charge of the Church of Scotland provided they produce a Certificate from the Clerk of the General Assembly of the United Reformed

Church to the effect that they have taken the college course approved by that Church or either of its constituent branches before Union in 1972 and have been ordained by the Church which trained them and have served in a charge or an appointment under the jurisdiction of that Church for a period of not less than five years prior to nomination.

4. Ministers of the Church of Scotland shall be eligible to be nominated to a vacant charge of the United Reformed Church provided they produce a Certificate from the Principal Clerk of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland to the effect that they have taken the regular course as approved by that Church and have been ordained by that Church and have served in a charge or an appointment under the jurisdiction of that Church for a period of not less than five years prior to nomination.

5. Nothing in this Act shall preclude any minister of the United Reformed Church who is unable to produce the required Certificate from approaching the General Assembly for Admission by Petition submitted through the Committee on Admission of Ministers of Other Churches in terms of the existing Regulations.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON ASSEMBLY MEMBERSHIP AND RELATED MATTERS

201. We were asked at the Assembly of 1973 to consider the relationship of Ministers and Laymen, who are full-time or part-time student Chaplains, to the Councils of the Church.

2. We found much difficulty in drafting a proposal to deal with student Chaplains knowing that at the same time Chaplains to the Forces and Industrial Chaplains might equally be regarded as involved in work over which a Council had direct or indirect oversight, and who should therefore have a right to share in the deliberations. We made two reports to the Executive Committee who made it clear to us that they wished for proposals which would define categories which could be treated automatically, leaving only doubtful cases to be referred for advice. This caused very real drafting difficulties and we felt it advisable to ask the Secretary to write to all District Councils to ascertain what cases were presently needing decision.

3. 40 replies were received from 65 Districts and although they described a confused position, it appeared that only in one or two cases were Districts seriously worried. We have set out in a Schedule to this report the factual position as disclosed by the answers together with a list of the positions about which questions were asked.

4. We have also had the advantage of receiving the report of the Applications Committee on the procedure to determine the status of ministers not in pastoral charge, which was adopted by the Assembly in May 1974.

5. In dealing with membership of District Councils and Synods we are concerned with those who exercise authority in the Church. It is the members of these Councils who have the right to vote, and we feel it to be essential

that they should be chosen from those who are participating in the work of the Church. The phrase used in the Scheme of Union in regard to ministers in membership of the District Council is 'engaged directly in the service of the U.R. Church . . .' and we consider that membership of a Council should only⁵ be extended to those Ministers or laymen whose work is seen to be an extension of the ministry of the District Council concerned.

It should not be overlooked that no restriction has been placed upon Districts or Synods as to those they invite to attend their meetings and those they allow to speak. This however gives these Councils very considerable¹⁰ freedom in inviting to their meetings, even on a regular basis if they so desire, those whom they consider may make a valuable contribution to their discussions. We see no good reason however why those who can make a valuable contribution in this way should on this account become members of Council with voting rights.

¹⁵6. We suggest that the most convenient way by which further appointments to District Council can be made is to increase the power of Districts and Synods under para. 9 (3) & (4) of the Scheme to enable Synods to appoint to District Councils:

- (i) all U.R.C. ministers/laymen serving as:
 - ²⁰ (a) Full-time Chaplains to Universities, Colleges, Hospitals, Factories, where their work is seen to be an extension of the ministry of the District concerned;
 - (b) Secretaries and other full-time officials of ecumenical bodies with which the U.R.C. is in relationship;
- ²⁵ (ii) U.R.C. ministers giving significant oversight to local churches, under the general direction of the Council concerned;
- (iii) Ministers of other Churches appointed to serve on behalf of the U.R.C. in charge of a U.R. Church or in an ecumenical group including U.R.C. interests.

³⁰7. To enable the Synod to take the necessary action we suggest that District Councils should bring to the notice of the Synod all those ministers or laymen whose duties appear to fall within the categories specified in para. 6 above.

8. The District Council may also draw the attention of the Synod to any minister of the U.R.C. serving within the area of the Council whose appointment³⁵ does not clearly fall within the categories listed in para. 6 above, and any such minister may himself ask to be considered for membership of the Council. The Synod shall consider all such cases with care and shall only grant membership where it is clearly established that the minister concerned is discharging a ministry for which the District Council has some direct respon-
⁴⁰sibility.

9. In all cases where such appointments are made, membership should be in the District within which the duties which justify the appointment are carried out. Those whose duties cover wider areas (e.g. ecumenical officers) may serve in the District of the local church of which they are members.

10. In order to secure consistency of practice we suggest that if any District Council or Synod is doubtful as to the course to adopt in any particular case, they should refer the matter to the Clerk of Assembly who when appropriate can seek the advice of the Executive Committee.

511. To carry these proposals into effect we recommend that the Scheme be altered as follows :

1. Add the following new paragraph to Functions of the District Councils at p.24 of the Manual :—

(xix) to make recommendations to the Synod for appointment to serve on District Council of

(i) all U.R.C. ministers/laymen serving as :

(a) Full-time Chaplains to Universities, Colleges, Hospitals, Factories, where their work is seen to be an extension of the ministry of the District concerned ;

(b) Secretaries and other full-time officials of ecumenical bodies with which the U.R.C. is in relationship.

(ii) U.R.C. ministers giving significant oversight to local churches, under the general direction of the Council concerned ;

(iii) Ministers of other Churches appointed to serve on behalf of the U.R.C. in charge of a U.R. Church or in an ecumenical group including U.R.C. interests.

(iv) Ministers not in pastoral charge who perform duties within the District in respect of which the Council has some direct responsibility.

2. Add the following new paragraph to the Functions of Synods at the bottom of page 26 of the Manual :—

(xvii) To appoint at its discretion additional members to serve on District Councils in accordance with recommendations made by such Councils under the provisions of paragraph 9 (3) (xix) above.

³⁰The Manual

The Special Committee as it has examined the Scheme of Union in relation to those matters that were its particular concern has seen the need for the re-ordering of some parts of the Manual, the inclusion of some material that was inadvertently omitted, and the setting out of these amendments of the Scheme and the alterations in Standing Orders and Rules of Procedure so far agreed. The Chairman has brought this work to an advanced stage of preparation. It is editorial work and does not alter the Scheme nor amend any of the actions or decisions of Assembly. The general work of the Committee is complete, and we therefore ask for discharge but also ask leave to issue these revisions in a form in which they can be used as an appendix to the Manual and no doubt whenever the Manual is reprinted included within it.

RESOLUTIONS

The Assembly receives the report

1. The Assembly confirms its decision of 1974 and amends the Scheme of Union as follows:
 - 5 (i) "9 (3) (a) All ministers, deaconesses, registered local pastors engaged directly in the service of the U.R.C. within that District."
 - (ii) "9 (3) (e) Such members of local churches normally elders not exceeding eight (or such other number as the General Assembly may from time to time determine) as may be co-opted by the District Council."
 - 10 (iii) "9 (4) (a) All ministers, deaconesses, registered local pastors being members of District Councils within the Province."
 - (iv) "9 (4) (f) Such members of local churches normally elders not exceeding eight (or such other number as the General Assembly may from time to time determine) as may be co-opted by the Synod."
 - 15 (v) It further agrees that if these amendments are accepted, Clause 9 (4) (e) shall be deleted.
2. The Assembly authorises the submission of the amendments to the Scheme of Union set out in para. 11 of the report of the Committee to District Councils and Provincial Synods with a view to their subsequent adoption by the Assembly.
203. The Assembly encourages Synods, pending the further discussion of these, to exercise their powers under Para. 9 (4) (xiv) in the light of these proposals.
4. The Assembly in discharging the Committee authorises Sir Harold Banwell in consultation with the General Secretary to complete the preparation of the revisions to the Manual so far required, and to arrange for their issue in a convenient form.

SCHEDULE:

Ministers not in charges, but with full membership of Councils:

3	3 serving Part-time	1	retired Minister
	1 Industrial Chaplain	1	College Lecturer
5	1 Railway Chaplain	1	Director of Health & Healing
	1 University Chaplain	1	Community Relations Officer
	2 Teachers	2	Secretaries of Congregational Boards
	1 Student for the Ministry	3	Baptists
10	1 Notifying minister of a non-uniting Church	1	Methodist
		1	Minister off duty, due to nervous trouble

Ministers without charges and not on Councils:

some are associates – some receive papers but do not attend

- 1 Director WCC Theological Education Fund
- 15 1 Professor of Theology
- 3 Lecturers in Theology
- 1 Lecturer in Education
- 1 Hospital Chaplain
- 1 Lecturer in Religious Education
- 20 1 Naval Chaplain
- 1 Chaplain to Sailors Rest
- 4 Teachers
- 2 Probation Officers

- Lay or ordained:*
- 25 1 Theology Lecturer is a member as a co-opted elder
 - 1 now Community Relations Officer represents a church as a layman, but is not a member of that Church.

Specific questions were asked about the position of:

- a. British Sailors and Forces Chaplains
- b. Lay Pastors not on the roll of Local Pastors
- 30 c. Theological College Staff
- d. Teachers of R.E.
 - i in Universities
 - ii in Colleges of Education
 - iii in Schools
- e. Full-time Hospital and Industrial Chaplains
- 35 f. List B Minister
- g. Ministers of other Churches serving in teams, or in charge of U.R.C. congregations

JOINT COMMITTEE FOR NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN CHURCHES OF CHRIST AND THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Interim Report for 1975

Introduction

⁵1. Responses to the Joint Committee's Report for 1974 were received from 17 out of 19 Churches of Christ Districts, from all 12 URC Provinces and from 33 out of 65 URC Districts. The procedure for handling the Report varied from place to place: some Districts and Provinces passed resolutions of welcome or general support as well as making comments; others only ¹⁰made comments, though sometimes impressions of the general feeling were given. In 12 Churches of Christ District meetings large majorities gave general approval to the Report in 'straw votes' of various kinds; and in only one were a majority of the speakers hostile to it. Of the URC Provinces, three welcomed the Report, two gave general approval, two gave qualified approval and five ¹⁵simply submitted an account of their comments; only one gave a welcome without making further comments. Eighteen URC Districts welcomed or gave general approval to the Report, and two gave qualified support; only one District said that it was not yet ready for union. In addition there were comments from 57 URC and 7 Churches of Christ congregations, and various ²⁰other groups and individuals. Of the congregations which expressed an opinion 27 (26 URC and 1 Church of Christ) gave general support, and 3 (2 URC and 1 Church of Christ) opposed the Report.

2. The nature of this response, and in particular the fact that only just over half the URC Districts responded at all, made it clear to the Committee that ²⁵it should not seek the authority of the Assembly and Conference of 1975 for leave to submit a Scheme of Union to the Synods and Districts of the URC and the congregations of Churches of Christ. But it was also clear that there is considerable goodwill towards the idea of union and much encouragement to continue the discussions. The Committee has therefore decided to ask the ³⁰Assembly and Conference to encourage the building up of closer relationships between the two Churches and also to authorise the continuation of discussions so that the necessary revisions of the URC Scheme of Union may be submitted to the Assembly and Conference of 1976. If these proved acceptable, the URC Councils would consider the matter in 1976-77, the Assembly ³⁵would decide in 1977 and ratify its decision in 1978. Similar processes in Churches of Christ, involving the congregations and the Conference, would also lead to a final decision in 1978. Meanwhile the Committee submits this interim report touching on the most important issues raised by the comments so far. It is not an exhaustive review of all the issues raised, and so the fact ⁴⁰that a particular point is not mentioned does not mean that the Committee has either ignored or forgotten it. But this report does cover those issues on which the Committee believes the possibility of union to depend, and for this reason the Committee wishes to know the opinion of URC Provinces and Districts and Churches of Christ Districts on these matters.

The Kind of Doctrinal Agreement Required

3. The most important issue is the kind of doctrinal agreement which is expected as a basis for union. Several comments asked for fuller statements of the doctrines of baptism and ministry lying behind the Committee's proposals. Others questioned whether a real theological agreement, particularly on baptism, had in fact been reached. Here it should be pointed out that the Committee never claimed to have reached complete agreement on the doctrine of baptism: what it said was that it felt there were sufficient shared convictions on the meaning of baptism to enable people with different convictions on the practice of baptism to live together in the same Church. But there is a difference between this view and those who believe that a complete agreement on all aspects of the doctrine of baptism is necessary before union is possible. The comments have shown that in both Churches there are differences of view on baptism and the URC contains a very wide range of opinion indeed. In such a situation any search for a consensus view in any more detail than that set out in the URC Basis of Union seems doomed to failure. The question to be asked therefore is whether the addition of the views held by members of Churches of Christ to the present range of opinions held within the URC would create an intolerable diversity, or whether it would on the contrary be creative. Similar questions can be asked in relation to the understanding of ministry. The Committee believes the two Churches must indicate whether they are prepared to contemplate a union which acknowledges a legitimate theological diversity and what limits to diversity they wish any revised Basis of Union to contain. Such a question is relevant not only to the present negotiations, but also to any future union which might be considered.

Baptism

4. The second issue relates to the Committee's proposals for holding together two convictions about the practice of baptism in one Church, and in particular the vexed question of 'rebaptism' and the availability of both forms and both modes of baptism in each congregation. (There has been some confusion in discussion between 'form' and 'mode'. The Committee's usage has been that the 'forms' of baptism are infant baptism or believer's baptism, and that the 'modes' of baptism are immersion, pouring or sprinkling.)

5. Various suggestions were made that the proposed footnote to paragraph 7 (14) of the Basis of Union should be deleted or amended, and that in no circumstances should rebaptism be practised. The Committee has considered this matter carefully, but remains convinced that it is essential to have a footnote which acknowledges the existence of differences of conviction on baptism. This acknowledgment is written into the Basis of the Church of North India and is in the proposed Plan of Union in New Zealand. Christ Church, Cotham, a joint Baptist-Methodist-URC congregation in Bristol, testified to the importance of the footnote in its comment to the Committee. The Committee has, however, reconsidered the wording of the footnote and has adopted various suggestions to produce a revised form as follows:

"The united Church will have within its membership both persons whose sincere belief it is that infant baptism is in harmony with the mind of the

Lord and those whose conviction it is that the sacrament can only properly be administered to a believer. They will all need to honour each other's conviction that in this sacrament the grace of God has been manifested, and accept their common obligation to build up each other in the faith. In any case where there is a difference of conviction, such differences will require to be pastorally reconciled in mutual understanding and charity, in the first instance by the elders' meeting of the local congregation, and if necessary by the wider councils of the Church. No one practice or mode of baptism shall be imposed upon ministers or people* contrary to conscience."

*The term "people" has proved to be ambiguous, because some members of the Committee had understood this to allow a whole congregation to decline to practise a form or mode of baptism which was contrary to their collective conscience, whilst others had understood this to refer to individual members of congregations only. This issue is discussed further in paragraph 9 below, and the Committee will decide whether amendment is necessary at this point in the light of the comments received.

6. The Committee also takes this opportunity of proposing that the phrase "into Christ" be inserted in line 2 of paragraph 7 (14) after "Baptism", so that the opening sentence would read:

"The United Reformed Church observes the gospel sacrament of baptism into Christ as a gift of God to His Church and as an appointed means of grace."

7. Behind the desire to delete the footnote, however, lies the question of rebaptism, and the belief (in the words of the URC Doctrine and Worship Committee) that "what is theologically wrong cannot be pastorally right". But the wording of the footnote makes no specific reference to rebaptism: the sentence that has caused anxiety comes in the reference to the notes of guidance to be prepared for ministers and others involved in such pastoral situations. This has led to a request that such guidance be published before decisions on union are taken, and the Committee will consider this. But it does not seem to have been appreciated that the Committee expected that cases of requests for 'rebaptism' would be very rare, which is why the wording "not exclude" was used in the Report for 1974. As questions have been raised, however, the Committee wishes to reaffirm that it is united in believing that the normal service to be given to anyone who comes to doubt the rightness of his baptism as an infant is that he should make a public profession of his faith which builds on the baptism as an infant and does not deny its reality as baptism: in short, that the services of Confirmation of Baptismal Vows and Reception of Church Members should be fully appreciated as solemn acts of personal and corporate commitment. Where doubt exists as to whether a service of infant baptism took place, or about the form or the matter or the intention of such a service, then a service of conditional baptism is the proper response. Only in extreme cases, where a person's spiritual doubts about the rightness of infant baptism could be satisfied in no other way and where it was likely that denial would cause deep spiritual harm, would a service of believer's baptism for one who had been baptized in infancy be contemplated; even here it should be made perfectly clear that

in the understanding of the Church the service was a fuller commitment rather than a denial of infant baptism. Nor would such a service ever be permitted for someone who had been baptized as a believer.

8. The Committee recognises that such a position is not strictly logical,⁵ but would urge that two further points be considered: first, the Committee believes that if ministers are prepared to conduct such a service in such circumstances (and it knows that at least some ministers of the URC are already so prepared) then this should be recognised as a possible, though irregular and abnormal, pastoral solution, instead of being kept a deep secret; and secondly the Committee believes that any illogicality in this position is transcended by the deeper and more scandalous illogicality which allows us to recognise each other as fellow members of the Church and yet to stay apart in separate denominations. It seems to the Committee highly unlikely that the anomalies arising from different convictions about baptism can be¹⁰ removed except by a process of growth in understanding within a united Church.¹⁵

9. A different question is the availability of both forms and all modes of baptism in each congregation. (The Committee's distinction between forms and modes is explained in paragraph 4 above.) The Eastern Province of the²⁰ URC has asked that a sentence be inserted in paragraph 7 (14) to ensure that both forms of baptism are available in every local church. At the same time some Churches of Christ have expressed distress at the prospect of having a font and a baptistery side by side in a church. The Committee is united in believing that if the united Church recognises two routes to the full privileges²⁵ and responsibilities of membership (one by infant baptism and later profession of faith and the other by believer's baptism upon profession of faith), then the goal of union must be that either route is available in each local congregation. But the Committee is divided on how best that goal might be achieved: some believe that if the union is to be a real one then both forms of³⁰ baptism must be available in each congregation from the point of union; others believe that a more gradual movement towards the goal could be contemplated, thinking that local Churches of Christ would respond more positively to requests for infant baptism when they arose within the congregation in a united Church than they would to the demand that they agree to³⁵ practise infant baptism immediately as a condition of union. The Committee wishes to point out that willingness to make arrangements for infant baptisms does not mean that each church has to install a permanent font; nor will any minister be compelled to baptize infants if he is conscientiously unable to do so—in such circumstances it would be acceptable for another minister to be⁴⁰ invited to conduct the service. But some members of the Committee felt that it was vital that such a service should be conducted within the worshipping fellowship of which the parents were members. The Committee therefore invites the URC to indicate whether it believes that both forms of baptism must be available in each congregation from the point of union, or whether a⁴⁵ gradual movement towards that goal is acceptable: and it invites Churches of Christ to indicate whether they would be prepared to accept such a condition of union. It will be appreciated that the whole possibility of a union which transcends the baptismal barrier hinges on the answers to these questions.

10. Closely related to this is the question of the mode of baptism. The Committee has already agreed that immersion, pouring and sprinkling (the URC Doctrine and Worship Committee pointed out that the last two are different) are all acceptable modes of baptism. Some URC congregations⁵ have asked whether they would be expected to install baptisteries at the point of union. The Committee does not expect that this would be done immediately: it would be possible for the congregation to go as a worshipping group to a church which had the necessary facilities, if baptism by immersion was requested. But just as it can be argued that real union has only taken¹⁰ place if the experience of infant baptism is fully shared, so it can also be argued that the full symbolism of the believer-baptist position is only appreciated if baptism by immersion is witnessed. The Committee therefore hopes that as many URC congregations as possible would make provision for this over the years, and that this would be particularly borne in mind in new¹⁵ building projects.

11. Anxiety has been expressed in some parts of the URC that the Committee's proposals implied that baptism was a condition of membership. This surprised the Churches of Christ representatives who did not think that the Committee's proposals in this respect differed from the existing Basis of²⁰ Union of the URC. The URC representatives reaffirmed their understanding that, whilst the Scheme of Union recognised all existing members of the uniting Congregational and Presbyterian churches as members of the United Reformed Church at the point of union whether they had been baptized or not, the Basis provided that in future anyone not previously²⁵ baptized who sought admission to the URC would receive baptism as "the sacrament of entry into the Church and its corporate ministry" (paragraph 7 (14)). The Committee has no wish to alter the Basis of Union in this respect.

12. Some URC comments suggested that more should have been said about³⁰ the Church's responsibility for unbaptized children and alternatives to infant baptism, and some Churches of Christ comments said that the Report had not stressed sufficiently the significance of the Service of Thanksgiving for Childbirth and Dedication of Parents in Churches of Christ. The Committee therefore affirms its belief that the Church does have a responsibility towards³⁵ its children and that where infant baptism is not practised, an alternative such as the Churches of Christ service or those which have been discussed and occasionally used in the URC is vital. It also takes this opportunity of pointing out that the Church has a general responsibility of nurture to all those baptized, whether infants or adults.

13. Some questions have been asked about the meaning of the Committee's proposal that a profession of faith be made by "the parent(s)" of a child brought for baptism. The Committee wishes to make it clear that this phraseology was intended to cover situations where only one of the parents was a believer, as well as single-parent families. 'Parent(s)' can also be taken to⁴⁵ include legal guardians and others who in a real sense can accept spiritual responsibility for a child.

Communion

14. A third issue was the frequency of Communion. Some URC congregations seemed to fear that weekly communion would be imposed by the union, whilst some Churches of Christ feared that weekly communion⁵ was threatened. The Committee wishes to make it clear that each local church would be free to decide on the frequency of Communion. The point which most concerned the Committee was the necessity in the united Church to enable those churches which wished for a weekly communion to have one.

Ministry

¹⁰15. The fourth issue was the ministry of word and sacraments, where attention naturally focussed on the proposed local presbyterate. The name was not liked, but no better one was suggested. The Committee considered 'general minister' and 'local minister', but felt that this might imply that the general minister had no local connections, or even that the distinction¹⁵ resembled the old Congregational Lists A and B, with their stress on status rather than function. 'General presbyter' and 'local presbyter' were considered, but it was felt that unfamiliarity might be a hindrance. Whatever names are used will either have existing associations and be liable to confusion (especially with the different usage of other Churches), or else be both unfamiliar²⁰ and a break with tradition. The Committee will continue its consideration of this matter and will welcome further suggestions.

16. Criticisms have been made of the proposals for training, and the Committee is going to look at this again in the light of comments made by the URC Supplementary Ministries Committee. Some felt that the Committee's²⁵ proposals conflicted with those of the URC Commission on the Ministry: the Committee had not felt this, but has had some consultation with the Commission and awaits with interest the Commission's Report for 1975 and the Assembly's decisions upon it. These will naturally affect future proposals. There were considerable doubts on the URC side as to whether suitable³⁰ recruits for the local presbyterate could be found. Several suggestions were made that the idea be dropped and provision made (in various forms) for a wider authorisation of elders to preside at the Lord's Table. The Committee has therefore examined these alternatives.

17. After careful thought the Committee does not feel able to recommend³⁵ that all elders should be regarded as ministers of Word and Sacrament. This is, of course, the present position of Churches of Christ, and the South Western Province of the URC suggested that it be extended to the URC as well. But it has been argued that the majority of elders in the URC do not feel that this is the ministry to which they were called, and others may be reluctant⁴⁰ to become elders if they feel that this is expected. The Committee would like to know whether this is so. Nor does the Committee feel able to accept the suggestion that all Churches of Christ elders should be authorised to preside under the terms of the 'pastoral necessity' clause of paragraph 7 (25) of the Basis of Union. Churches of Christ prize a plurality of presidents within each⁴⁵ congregation, and this is more than can honestly be read into the phrase 'pastoral necessity'. At the same time it has to be recognised that there is a strong feeling on the URC side that the right to preside rests most appropriately

with the one who is called to full-time pastoral care and preaching of the Word. The Committee wishes to give more thought to the possibility of a multiple ministry within a local congregation, whereby the tasks of ministry in preaching, presiding and pastoral care could be shared between several people, without expecting each one to perform every task. It would be necessary to consider what training would be appropriate in such circumstances.

18. The Committee therefore believes that the best basis for further exploration is still the twofold form of ministry of General Ministers and Local Presbyters, though it will try to devise more acceptable names. But it wishes to make it clear that acceptance of this twofold form would not require that any full-time minister be disturbed in his present ministry, nor be necessarily transferred to a ministry with a group of churches. (The formation of groups of churches is in any case a matter for the councils of the Church.)¹⁰ No local church would be required to call local presbyters if it did not wish to do so. Churches of Christ elders would have the opportunity to become local presbyters at the point of union; and after union only those who became local presbyters would be able to preside at communion, except where authorisations for other persons were made under the 'pastoral necessity' provision of paragraph 7 (25) of the Basis of Union. Local pastors and deaconesses in the URC would also have the opportunity to become local presbyters at the point of union. As local pastors and deaconesses have not been ordained to the ministry of Word and Sacraments, they would be so ordained after any further preparation or training decided upon by the Synod¹⁵ in accordance with the general provisions for the training of local presbyters: in some cases the Synod might well judge that no further preparation or training was needed. Ex-Churches of Christ elders, being already ordained to the ministry of Word and Sacrament, would require no further ordination, and they would not be required to undergo further training; but they might be²⁰ invited to train or to receive further recognition in order the better to fulfil the duties of the local presbyterate in the united Church. The Committee will give further consideration to the way in which the pattern of the local presbyterate could be developed in the united Church in the light of comments already received.

³⁵19. Considerable concern has been expressed over the place of lay preachers in the united Church, and some have suspected that the Committee wishes gradually to eliminate them. This came as a complete surprise to the Committee, which had never thought that the matter required discussion. Both Churches have a recognised place for lay preachers and the Committee expected this⁴⁰ to continue under the terms of paragraph 7 (25) of the Basis of Union, which was not to be amended. But the fears expressed have illuminated a significant difference between the two Churches. In the URC the lay preacher is entirely responsible for the conduct of worship in the church at which he preaches, and this has sometimes involved him by authorisation of the District Council⁴⁵ in the conduct of the Communion service if it is a Communion Sunday. In Churches of Christ, where every Sunday morning service is a Communion service, the lay preacher is not expected to conduct the service: he preaches, but the service is normally conducted by one of the elders. This is why the

Committee concentrated on presidency rather than preaching in its discussion of ministry. But this does not mean that the Committee under-estimates the importance of lay preachers: it recognises the value of the work they do and expects it to continue. A number of lay preachers might wish to offer themselves as candidates for the local presbyterate, but the Committee does not envisage that local presbyters will replace lay preachers or make them redundant. Those lay preachers who became local presbyters, however, would have to recognise that this ministry necessarily included pastoral responsibility in a local church.

¹⁰Wider Unity

20. Lastly, considerable concern has been expressed that the Committee's proposals should not impede wider union, and it has been suggested that the views of the Churches' Unity Commission on the proposals should be sought. In its Report for 1974 the Committee made it perfectly clear that it sees its ¹⁵work in the context of wider union, both in the Introduction on page 3 and in paragraph 23 on pages 13-14. It has also to be remembered that when that report was written there was no certainty that the Churches' Unity Commission would be set up. Now that it has been set up, however, the Committee (which includes six members of the Commission including its Executive Officer) has ²⁰asked it to set up a group to comment on discussions going on between its constituent Churches. It is hoped that in this way the Committee will be able to secure the comments of other Churches on its proposals. The Committee has also made approaches to the sister Churches of the URC in Scotland to ensure that they would not object to Churches of Christ in Scotland joining ²⁵the URC. It would be understood that such churches would be free to join any Scottish Church union scheme that might emerge, just as the Welsh Province of the URC has been assured that it is free to join any Church union scheme in Wales.

Conclusion

³⁰21. In this report the Committee has sought to provide reassurances on some of the important issues raised in the comments from the two Churches. It has also sought to raise other serious issues on which it would like further guidance. **The Committee particularly wishes to know the mind of the two Churches on the issues raised in paragraphs 3, 5, 7, 8, 9** ³⁵**and 17 of this report;** and it would be considerably helped by knowing the strength of opinion behind any comments made. Such comments could take the form of resolutions in order to test the strength of opinion on either side. Comments should be sent to the Secretary, Dr D. M. Thompson, Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge, CB3 0DG, **by 31 December 1975.** The Committee does ⁴⁰not minimise the difficulty of the task which lies before it; but it asks for the sympathetic support and the prayerful concern of the Churches, so that its work might be brought to a successful conclusion.

Norman Goodall, *Chairman*

David M. Thompson, *Secretary*

RESOLUTIONS

1. The Assembly/Conference records its satisfaction that the reports received from the Provinces and Districts concerning the future relationships of the United Reformed Church and the Churches of Christ, while making it clear that several issues require to be further resolved before a decision to unite can be taken, indicate a clear will to proceed towards such a union and a present will to seek closer relationships. It therefore requests its constituent Councils, local churches, officers and committees to seek to build up such relationships in every way possible. It invites the appropriate bodies of the Churches of Christ/United Reformed Church to consider with them how such a progress of closer work can be achieved over the period while formal discussion of steps to union is going forward, and authorises the Executive Committee/Central Council to consider, and, if so advised, to implement proposals to this end.
 2. The Assembly/Conference welcomes the further elucidation of the proposals for the coming together of the Churches of Christ and the United Reformed Church provided by the Interim Report for 1975, and invites comments from Provinces and Districts on the issues raised. It also encourages the Joint Committee to prepare in detail the revisions of the URC Scheme of Union which such coming together would require, in the light of the responses to this Report. It hopes such a Revised Scheme of Union, together with an outline of the process to be followed, may be ready for submission to the Assembly and Conference of 1976, so that if they prove acceptable they might subsequently be considered by the appropriate councils of the two Churches.
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THE MODERATORS' REPORT 1975

Deepening of Fellowship

During this last year we have seen a marked strengthening of the bonds of fellowship in our new Church. This has been especially evident in the success⁵ of Provincial and District "Days". From Northumberland to the Home Counties; from Wales to East Anglia, thousands of our members, both young and old have gathered for worship, witness and recreation. All these occasions left us rejoicing at the richness of our life together and sent us back to our local churches uplifted and encouraged.

¹⁰The Cost of Living

In our churches we continue to experience the family life of the People of God but like any family a local church is not only a fellowship, it is also an economic unit. It is faced with the problem of making ends meet. We admire the efforts of our people to pay their way but we have been deeply troubled by¹⁵ the unequal struggle to which many local churches are now committed. They are part of a society in the grip of unprecedented inflation. When many small firms are driven out of business and vast commercial undertakings have to be bailed out with Government money, it is hardly surprising that every major denomination is seriously embarrassed by rising costs. The United Reformed²⁰ Church is no exception and it seems to us that, if present trends continue, there could soon be an unbridgeable gap between income and expenditure. In some situations we are simply living beyond our means; we must either raise a lot more money or concentrate our work in fewer units.

In such a situation we often are saddened to see some local churches²⁵ living in (and on) the past. They refuse to read the signs of the times which point inexorably to the surrender of buildings that are now thoroughly unsuited to the congregation's needs but nevertheless drain all its financial resources and absorb all the members' energies. Moderators often visit churches pitifully reduced in membership and almost entirely comprised of elderly people. They³⁰ give generously and serve faithfully but it is now quite unrealistic to suppose that they can maintain and heat large buildings, contribute adequately to ministry and undertake a proper share of the wider work of the Church at home and overseas. There is a pattern of decline in such circumstances: first the wider work of the Church suffers; next, support of ministry is reduced; finally³⁵ the church finds itself wholly geared to maintaining its buildings—its only 'raison d'être'. Every local church must ask itself why it exists at all: what is a church for? If we could think more of mission and less of survival we should find increased excitement and fulfilment in being the Church. The 'cost of living' for the People of God is never to be computed simply in terms of pounds⁴⁰ and pence. The economics of the Kingdom is founded on the principle, 'whosoever would save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it'.

The Ministry

We have been encouraged by the number of those who are considering offering themselves for the Christian ministry. Men and women are coming forward at a time when traditional patterns of ministry are being called into question and when the financial pressures already mentioned make the viability of a full-time ministry doubtful. If ministerial stipends are to be realistic we must contribute far more to ministry or have far fewer full-time ministers. It could be that we shall be faced with a part-time ministry in the future.

Vacancies and the Movement of Ministers

¹⁰The many pressures on local churches have not made it any easier to fill vacancies or move ministers but Moderators have continued to shoulder a large part of these responsibilities. From time to time we are made aware that there still exist misunderstandings over the role of moderators in this particular area of our Church life. Moderators do not arrogate to themselves the function ¹⁵of settling churches and ministers. There is nothing to prevent churches and ministers seeking settlements without reference to moderators. Experience shows, however, that churches which act without consultation do not always take into account the disservice they may do to the minister or the church which they disturb. We hope that such close pastoral relationships will grow ²⁰between churches, interim moderators, ministers and provincial moderators that these concerns will always be shared and solutions sought by co-operative effort. Over the years provincial moderators have accumulated a wealth of knowledge of local churches and ministers and this is freely at the disposal of those who wish to draw upon it. The majority of churches and ministers seek ²⁵our help and in order to respond to their requests we meet together at regular intervals. Some people imagine a Moderators' Meeting to be a kind of inner cabinet of the Church discussing and framing high policy behind closed doors! Nothing could be further from the facts. When we meet our main business is attempting to meet the requests for help from churches seeking ministers and ³⁰ministers wishing a change of pastorate. On these occasions we always receive a visit from the General Secretary and this gives us an opportunity to share information and concerns of a pastoral nature.

We wish we could assist every vacant pastorate to achieve a happy settlement and provide every minister with a satisfying sphere of service. In ³⁵practice our best efforts are often frustrated by the reservations churches make as to the kind of minister they want and the restrictions ministers place upon the type and location of church to which they are prepared to go. In many cases we appreciate the reasons for such reservations and restrictions but we sometimes feel that churches and ministers do not understand how ⁴⁰difficult it is to offer them the settlements they seek.

Conclusion

A French cynic once said that the great thing about marriage is that you have someone with whom you can share the problems you wouldn't have if you were not married! Every happily married couple will recognise an element ⁴⁵of truth in that remark but at the same time will affirm that their problems are

as nothing compared with the positive blessing of their relationship. So with our United Reformed Church: we have our problems and difficulties but already we have experienced such blessing in our Union that we face the future confident that we shall be given grace to solve our problems and overcome our difficulties.

On a Personal Note

We were grieved at the loss sustained by our colleague Hugh Jones on the death of his wife, Gaynor.

Later this year Norman Beard is due to retire and we shall sorely miss his wisdom and comradeship. We wish him and Mrs. Beard the happiest of well-earned retirements.

We welcome the nomination of Revd A. G. Walker, M.A., to be Moderator of the Yorkshire Province.

CHURCH LIFE DEPARTMENT

Chairman: The Revd Dr. Kenneth Slack

Secretary: The Revd Robert O. Latham

The third report of the Church Life Department to the 5 General Assembly of the United Reformed Church

INTRODUCTION

We understand our ministry as a department of the Church as directed to the nourishing and stimulating of each local member church. We attempt to do this by providing a wide variety of services, which as our report will show
10 cover national and regional conferences for all ages and energetic adventures for the young; elders training sessions and a do-it-yourself kit; courses for lay preachers, local pastors and those who teach our children; a "whole-church" teaching aid in the form of Partners in Learning; a supplement of modern hymns, New Church Praise, and orders of worship; leaflets on baptism
15 and Church membership refresher and retraining programmes for our ministers and consultations with those who are enquiring about the full time ministry of the Church. The Commission on the Ministry, which the Department requested the Assembly to set up and which is reporting separately, has been a major concern during this year. We have also looked at Charismatic Renewal
20 and attempted to provide guide lines for the churches. We have shared with other departments in examining the challenge of Stewardship, and have given some thought to the Ministry of Healing.

We are fully aware that not all the churches, nor all the ministers or elders, have availed themselves of what is provided, and we ask for the closer
25 co-operation of Provincial and District Church Life Committees, and the churches themselves, in order that we may be helped to know where help is needed and what form it should take. The Department's committees are well served by Moderators, ministers and laymen from all over the country, the chairmen are all ordained ministers, and the staff is constantly travelling the
30 country visiting all manner of churches. We see a real need. It is for depth in Church life. A depth of theological thought and commitment to face issues of personal, national and international life with the insights of the Gospel and of historical and contemporary ecumenical Christian experience. The need to help people wrestle with the problems of daily living and discipleship; of the
35 relevance of worship; of passing on our Christian heritage as a revolutionary force as well as secure tradition. If members and adherents leave our churches, let it be because they cannot accept the basis or implications of the Christian faith, and not because the issues are not raised and the opportunity not given for intelligent people to study, and think and pray together. The department
40 wishes to help the churches to plumb the depths, and it believes this can best be done by leadership training, both ministerial and lay.

During the year we have said farewell to our chairman, Mrs. Gwen Hall, whose present commitments prevent her from giving the time and attention the chairmanship requires. The Department is grateful that Mrs. Hall was its first chairman, for the high standards she set, and the excellence of her presentation of the reports to Assembly. We welcome as her successor the Revd Dr. Kenneth Slack, whose gifts and graces are well known to the Assembly and in whom we are confident we have an outstanding chairman. We also said farewell to the Revd John Sutcliffe, as Secretary for Christian Education, on his appointment as General Secretary of the Christian Education Movement. We welcome Mr. Sutcliffe's return as Educational Consultant, on a part time basis, for a trial period, and are grateful for his continuing service to the Church in this capacity. The Revd Charles Meachin has visited India, and also conducted a holiday group around India, as part of his advocacy for overseas mission. The Revd Michael Davies has organized a German-English work-camp, and shared in a European Youth consultation in Eastern Europe.

In these activities, and in many others, the Department rejoices in the co-operation of the other departments and their committees and staff. A re-distribution of functions may be desirable for the better ordering of our service to the churches, but the measure of team-work, and of mutual confidence, which has evolved since the inception of the United Reformed Church, is for us, a sure sign of the Church's new life and purpose for which we thank the Lord of the Church whom we are called to serve.

DOCTRINE AND WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Chairman: The Revd Dr. John Huxtable

Secretary: The Revd Donald McIlhagga

The committee wishes to place on record its very great appreciation of the distinguished services of its previous Chairman, Revd Dr. Erik Routley and assures him of its good wishes for his future work in the U.S.A. The Committee would also express its gratitude to the General Assembly for its consent to increase the number of its members.

New Church Praise is expected to be ready for the General Assembly in May 1975. Thanks are due to the compiling committee for much hard and skilful work.

The Assembly records its appreciation of the work of the New Church Praise committee—Mr. Peter Cutts (Chairman), Revd David Gardner (Secretary), Mrs. C. Brock, Revd Dr. J. K. Gregory, Rev. D. H. Hilton, Revd D. McIlhagga, Revd T. C. Micklem, Revd Dr. E. R. Routley, Revd Dr. B. A. Wren, Mr. R. Jacquet, Mr. C. E. Strange, Mr. A. D. Thomas and also Mr. John Wilson (Musical Adviser), and Mr. Percy W. Bush.

The Assembly also places on record its appreciation of the co-operation of the Saint Andrew Press of the Church of Scotland for undertaking the responsibility for the publication of New Church Praise.

Work proceeds on the preparation of a new Service Book, and it is intended to produce both a Minister's Directory and a small book to put into the hands of members of congregations. Progress is being made on services of Baptism, Marriage, Funerals, Healing and the Commissioning of Lay Preachers.

Comments have been made on the Joint Report of the U.R.C. and Churches of Christ; orders of Thanksgiving after childbirth and the Dedication of Parents, submitted by the Churches of Christ, are being considered. A statement on Ordination is being prepared; the working party on Christian Initiation (composed of members of this committee, the Christian Education Committee, and the Children's Committee) has produced a discussion paper entitled *Children and Holy Communion* which is available on request, but the working party has not been able to make a final report (cf. Children's Committee report, page 44).

¹⁰ Thanks were expressed to the Revds J. M. Todd and Aled Davies for their lengthy and notable service to the Joint Liturgical Group; and it has been suggested that the names of the Revd D. C. M. Gardner and Revd D. McIlhagga be sent to the Nominations Committee to take their places.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

¹⁵ *Chairman:* The Revd C. Cyril Franks

CHILDREN'S COMMITTEE

Chairman: The Revd Donald H. Hilton

Secretary to both committees: The Revd John M. Sutcliffe

During the year the committees have held a one day meeting and a residential ²⁰two day meeting. As in previous years more than half the time has been spent in joint meetings. Representatives of the Methodist Church, the Churches of Christ and the Council for World Mission have attended each meeting.

In November Miss Ceciley Hooff left the service of the Church and of the two committees to take up an appointment with the Conference of Missionary Societies. The committee wish to record their gratitude to her for her ²⁵devoted work on their behalf.

The Revd John Sutcliffe resigned as Education Secretary on taking up the appointment of General Secretary of the Christian Education Movement in September 1974. Mr. Sutcliffe had made a considerable contribution to ³⁰our Church Life programme and it was with great reluctance we saw him go. When therefore Christian Education Movement approached us in the person of its General Secretary and suggested he would be available on a part-time basis, as a Christian Education consultant, we readily agreed to accept the offer, for an initial period of 9 months. We are grateful for Mr. Sutcliffe's ³⁵help and insights, even though the time he can give us is limited.

This report does not mention every item of the committees' work; it seeks to draw the attention of the Assembly to particular aspects of our work.

Working Parties The report of the working party on Initiation appointed by the two committees and the Doctrine and Worship Committee revealed the ⁴⁰wide divergence of view on this subject in the Church. The working party

was unable to advise on pastoral norms about the place of children in the Service of Holy Communion and declined to undertake work on baptism in view of the current church union negotiations. A discussion paper entitled *Children and Holy Communion* on the place of children in Holy Communion⁵ has been prepared which expresses cogently three of the diverse views and suggests further matters for discussion. It is available to those churches who are actively considering this matter.

A discussion paper written by a group with specialist experience of working with children in care has been prepared. This paper, intended for¹⁰ churches which already have contact with children in care, is available on request, to the churches.

Other working parties have begun the preparation of Christian Education Series leaflets on the aims of in-church education programmes and on Church family days and weekend conferences. A working party on the provision of¹⁵ programme material for junior clubs has been appointed jointly with the Youth Committee.

Publications The Elders' training kit, "United for Mission" was published last autumn. The phase 2 kit commended as a study action programme has not been produced. The programme material suggested by the Joint Stewardship committee is deemed to meet the need for the time being (cf. report of²⁰ Christian Stewardship, page 19).

Committee publications which have appeared during the past year are, "*So you want your Baby baptized*", a leaflet for parents; "*An invitation to membership of the Church*", an introductory leaflet about church membership;²⁵ "*Belonging to the Church*", a leaflet of invitation related to the "*Belonging to the Church*" kit. The committees have distributed to the churches the leaflet "*Everybody In*", published by the Joint Publications Board; and welcomed and commended to the churches the Nairobi kit, published by the British Council of Churches.

Adult Education The committee recognises the need for clarification of³⁰ the meaning of 'adult education' in many local churches. This will be reflected in the leaflet on the aims of an in-church education programme. Adult education programmes ought not to be something extra in church life but that which takes place in the ordinary week by week work of the church in³⁵ elders' and church meetings, morning worship, some women's and men's meetings, house groups, confirmation training and in the church's response to local, national, international and personal questions. The committee is concerned that within this week by week programme churches shall use the most imaginative and suitable techniques.

Communications The committees have difficulty in communicating with⁴⁰ some Districts. A number of District Councils have a full committee structure, in contrast others have scarcely any. Some have appointed officers to have oversight of various aspects of church life, some have not. In some Districts those most concerned with education feel demoralized because they have no⁴⁵ clear lines of communication within the District, little support and no place in the executive structure.

The Assembly requests

every District Council to appoint a children's work and a Christian education secretary (or a secretary combining the functions of both), and to ensure that the work of the secretary (ies) is facilitated and supported by the Council.

5 **Equipped to Teach** The revised 'Equipped to Teach' course has been available since 1973. One significant change made in the revision enabled candidates to begin the course at any time rather than only in September. Since the revision, 173 candidates have enrolled for the course. Of these 103 have completed the preliminary section, 37 the Standard and 16 the Advanced.
10 Currently 63 people are taking the course.

Following the General Assembly's commendation of the course last year, the Teacher Training Officer has asked all Provinces and Districts to advocate the course and to list potential tutors. They were requested also to appoint a Liaison Officer who would channel applications from the churches to the
15 office. The Teacher Training Officer has been available to conduct training courses for potential tutors and to advocate the course at district and provincial meetings, but few requests have been made for his services.

A number of candidates who have completed the Preliminary Course have not proceeded further and it has been suggested that many people have been
20 unwilling to commit themselves to a course which takes eight months to complete. The suggestion has been made that recognition should be given to those who complete the Preliminary Course since many more leaders and helpers in children's groups might be prepared to embark on a scheme of study which committed them only for three months. The opportunity to
25 continue with the Standard or Advanced Courses could then be offered.

The Assembly requests:

District Councils to commend "Equipped to Teach" to the churches and to make the equipping of leaders and helpers in children's groups a high priority activity.

ECUMENICAL LINKS

30 The committees have maintained their links with the Churches Group on the Ministry to Children of the British Council of Churches, the education group of the British Council of Churches, the National Christian Education Council, the Education Committee of the Free Church Federal Council, and the European Consultation on Christian Education and numerous other
35 ecumenical working parties. Special attention is drawn to the following ecumenical links:

British Lessons Council During the year the Children's Committee expressed its concern at the lack of progress being made by the Curriculum Project Group appointed by the British Lessons Council to work on consultation with the Joint Lectionary Group. It is hoped that a report will become
40 available before the next General Assembly.

Joint Publications Board Partners in Learning was built on four foundations: (i) the experiential approach which recognises the importance of experience in the way children learn and seeks to take their experience

seriously; (ii) the Bible as the decisive book of Judeo-Christian experience and the giver in church life; (iii) the church year; (iv) and the Church, the community of faith. These are also the foundations of the new Partners in Learning handbooks which were published in April this year and come into use this October.

The new Partners in Learning is subtitled, 'A church community education programme'. It represents a further development in in-church education using theological insights about the place of the child in the church, sociological insights about the nature of community and educational insights into how people learn from each other. We believe this development stands in the tradition of insight, adjustment and development of Hamilton Archibald, H. A. Hamilton and Douglas Hubery.

The new Partners in Learning seeks to take seriously the place of children and adults in the community of the church without neglecting the proper place for peer group activity. It seeks to be more sensitive to the ways in which people learn in community. It seeks to help those who want to explore how the church can be a learning and teaching community in which all are learners and all are teachers, and to do this without being of diminished use to others. An attempt has been made to meet the two major criticisms of recent volumes by taking care about the practical suggestions included in the course and by introducing a new introductory section on the Biblical basis of each course.

As well as publishing age group volumes, a common volume has been published in three parts for convenience of handling which will be of special value to ministers, leaders and lay preachers and any who have a concern for the wholeness of the church's community in learning and worship. The new Partners in Learning is a tool to be used in the local church's education programme, rather than a programme to be imposed. The attention of this Assembly is drawn to the exhibition of the new publications:

³⁰The Assembly agrees:

to welcome the publication of the first year's volumes of the new Partners in Learning courses, recommends the principles on which they are based and encourages their advocacy in the churches.

Christian Education Movement In January of this year the Christian Education Movement celebrated its tenth anniversary. The Christian Education Movement was formed with the help of the churches by the union of the Student Christian Movement in Schools and the Institute of Christian Education to form a comprehensive ecumenical Christian service to pupils and teachers. The churches have continued to support the Movement financially and to share in its government. Over the years the work has developed four major emphases, work with and for teachers of Religious Education, direct work with pupils, the facilitating of a Christian reflection on education in schools, colleges and universities, and publishing Learning for Living and material for use in schools and discussion groups.

⁴⁵The Assembly affirms:

its support for the Christian Education Movement and sends its good wishes to the Movement at the beginning of its second decade of service.

YOUTH COMMITTEE

Chairman: The Revd Kenneth Cranston

Secretary: The Revd Michael J. Davies

The Youth Committee wishes to record its appreciation of the Revd Kenneth Cranston, who has served as the first chairman of the new committee, and before that as chairman of the Presbyterian Church of England Youth Department. Mr. Cranston has given distinguished and wise leadership for ten years and has earned the respect and admiration of our young people.

URC Youth At the Assembly of Youth in 1974 it was agreed that the name of URC Youth should be "The Fellowship of United Reformed Youth" —FURY for short. This title would apply to all young people associated with the Church and they would be entitled to wear the "Fishbadge" at the discretion of the local Church. A "Fish Pendant" will also be available in the summer from the Youth Office (price 40p).

Local Church Responsibility The Assembly of Youth in January devoted much time to an examination of youth work at a Local Church level. Whilst many churches are very much alive to their responsibility for young people, some apparently give little thought to the matter. The Assembly of Youth asked that this matter be brought to the attention of the General Assembly in the hope that all local churches can be persuaded to explore this aspect of their witness.

The Assembly notes:

the concern of the Assembly of Youth that all local churches should recognise their responsibility to cater for the needs of young people in their neighbourhood and asks that Church Meetings will give consideration to this matter in the near future.

District Youth Work The Youth Committee has been disappointed to note that, despite the resolution of the General Assembly in 1974 calling on Districts and Provinces to set up Youth Committees in which young people could share equally with members appointed by District Councils and Provincial Synods, there are still a number of Districts and Provinces where there is no such Committee. In some cases there is no District Youth Secretary. The Youth Committee considers that initiative on these matters by District Council and Provincial Synod is essential to the successful implementation of URC Youth Policy. It is significant that only 41 (out of 65) Districts were represented at the National Assembly of Youth in January 1975. It seems hard to believe that there are no young people willing and suitable to act as delegates in 24 of our Districts when there are 83,040 young people associated with local churches according to the latest statistical returns.

The Assembly agrees:

that District Councils be asked to consider the activities available for young people in their District, to encourage the setting up of one or more District Youth Forums and the appointment of delegates to the Assembly of Youth, January 23-24, 1976.

Youth Leadership Training The General Assembly in 1974 received the Youth Committees proposals for Youth Leadership Training. A National Training Officer would have been appointed and each Province was requested to appoint a Provincial Training Officer to implement the training programme of the Church. However, it soon became clear that this ambitious scheme would be too costly in the present financial situation and the Youth Committee obtained the consent of the Executive Committee in October 1974 to modify the scheme. The National Training Officer appointment has been deferred and the Youth Committee's resources available for training will be used to supplement money available locally (e.g. from Local Education Authorities) for the appointment of four or five Regional Youth Leadership Training Officers. The first of these, Mr. Brian Harris, became Regional Training Officer for the Northern and Yorkshire Provinces on January 1, 1975 and it is hoped to make at least one more appointment in 1975.

Uniformed Organisations The Uniformed Organisations Panel has met on several occasions with the Youth Committee. It is significant that about five eighths of URC Youth (53,000 young people in December 1973) are involved in the Guide or Scout Movements or the Boys' and Girls' Brigades. URC Youth leaflet No. 4 was on "Guides/Scouts and the Local Church" and a leaflet on the work of the Boys' and Girls' Brigades is due to be published shortly.

National Activities The two national activities for the 14—17 age group "Anchors Aweigh!" (on the Norfolk Broads) and the Adventure Camp (in the Lake District) were again well supported and successful in 1974 and will be repeated in 1975. For older young people the experimental work camp project in Wales "Holiday", during which 50 URC work campers entertained 50 children from problem families in Merseyside for a 10 day adventure holiday, also appears to have achieved its initial aim and will become a regular part of the programme. About 150 were present at Swanwick for the Christmas Conference on "Violence and Non-Violence". An addition to the programme was the new style Anglo-German programme. 20 young people and 4 leaders from the URC met for a fortnight with an equal number of young Germans in the Rhineland in August for a conference on the theme "Sharing". This included community work in small groups and a great deal of "learning by doing" as well as much discussion and the predictable outings and social activities. A German group will come to England for a similar conference on "Hope and Fear" in 1975. The "Time for God" voluntary service scheme is developing well. Several URC young people are participating and a number of churches have expressed interest and some have agreed to take a volunteer, though additional opportunities are needed.

The Assembly notes:

with pleasure the development of the "Time for God" scheme and asks churches in suitable situations to consider offering placement opportunities to volunteers under the scheme.

Young Adults Concern has been expressed from several quarters about the spiritual needs of the young adult (18+) age group. The Assembly of Youth, "bearing in mind that, to be a whole man in Christ is to be spiritual,

physical and political being, but that the man of God must be primarily a man of prayer if he is to be Christ in the world, strongly presses the Youth Committee to provide opportunities for the deepening of spiritual life and for spiritual renewal in the Church". The Youth Committee is considering how best to meet this call but feels that, in view of the wide implications of the resolution, it needs to share this responsibility with others concerned with the deepening of spiritual life and renewal in the Church.

The Assembly notes:

- 10 with interest the Assembly of Youth's desire for the provision of opportunities for the deepening of spiritual life and for spiritual renewal in the Church and authorises the Youth Committee to consult with other appropriate Committees in its attempt to respond to this request.

Study Project 1975-6—"Jesus Christ Frees and Unites" No specific national youth project was sponsored in 1974/5 but information about a wide range of project kits and resource materials was made available to local churches. Work is now proceeding in co-operation with the Churches of Christ Education Department, on a study action project for the next Autumn and Winter session based on the theme of the World Council of Churches Assembly at Nairobi. Prior to the Assembly youth groups will be encouraged to look at the various aspects of the theme (making use of existing material with supplementary ideas to be provided). During the following period ideas will be put forward enabling youth groups to put their conclusions into practice locally. The Assembly of Youth has proposed that District Youth Forums and Youth Committees should set up a Youth Worship Team to visit and conduct worship on the theme "Jesus Christ Frees and Unites" in the Districts (in consultation with Lay Preachers in the area). Worship suggestions will be included with the project materials and it is hoped that local churches will invite the Youth Teams to conduct services.

The Assembly welcomes:

- 30 the proposal to have a national youth project commencing in the autumn of 1975 on the theme "Jesus Christ frees and Unites", encourages District Youth Forums and Youth Committees to set up Youth Worship Teams to lead worship based on this theme and asks local churches to invite them to conduct services.

Social and Political Action Many young people are deeply concerned about the need for Christians to be fully involved socially and politically. The Assembly of Youth in 1974 asked the Youth Committee to take urgent action on this and a working group has met several times. The British Council of Churches Youth Unit study paper "New Initiatives against Apartheid" was commended for use and supplementary notes provided. A URC Youth leaflet on "Young People and Social and Political Action" is being prepared and it is hoped to produce and distribute widely a regular newsletter on topical issues in close consultation with the Secretary of the Church and Society Department. This will be called GOAD (or "Go out and do").

Churches of Christ The Youth Committee is co-operating with the Churches of Christ in the production of the 1975/6 national youth project, in operating the "Time for God" scheme and in various national conferences and activities. A joint meeting is held once a year and new areas for co-operation are being explored.

Priorities for Youth Work in the URC The Youth Committee is now devoting its energies to consideration of three main areas of work which it considers to be of high priority, namely:

1. The problems of young people in isolation (i.e. in local churches where there are few if any others in the same age group and where any normal form of "youth work" is consequently impossible).
2. Junior Clubs and work with the under 14s. A joint working party has been set up with the Children's Committee and the Pilots Panel to review programme materials and resources available.
153. The needs of the young adult (i.e. the 18 plus age group, most of whom have little interest in the institutional Church but are still interested in spiritual, social and moral questions).

PILOTS

Chairman: The Revd Sydney Smith

Secretary: Mr. Michael D. Woolnough

The official children's movement of the United Reformed Church has seen significant progress during the last year. 13 new companies have been formed; the regional structure inaugurated two years ago has begun to work, with two regional councils operating for consultation and training; and four very successful camps were held with a total of four hundred people involved. There is evidence that Pilots is increasingly being recognised as a valuable instrument in leading children towards discipleship of Jesus and commitment to his Church.

The regional structure has encountered a difficulty. It works well where there are several Pilot companies in the same area, but has hardly begun to operate in more thinly "populated" areas. With this in mind, the Panel has reduced the number of regions to five, partly by grouping Provinces together more naturally, and partly by asking those regions with a larger number of companies to include in their responsibility companies just outside their borders which can naturally link with them. Thus we hope training and consultation (the principal functions of the regions) will become more feasible across the country. Each Province will still have its official Pilot Officer who will be responsible for supplying companies with material and for advocacy and advice. In 1976, it is hoped, each region will have its own camp.

MINISTERIAL TRAINING COMMITTEE

Chairman: The Revd J. Ieuan Evans

Secretary: The Revd Robert O. Latham

The Ministerial Training Committee met twice during the year. The committee is very conscious of the fact that the Commission on the Ministry, which it requested Assembly to set up, has on its agenda many items that are the proper concern of this committee, and that when it reports to Assembly, the business of this committee could be considerably affected. In the meantime your committee continues to deal with the on-going affairs of Ministerial Training.

The major items of importance in this past year can be described as follows :

Westminster College The committee has set up a Westminster College Management Committee to assist the Principal in those matters concerning the administration and maintenance of the College in which he feels the need of advice. The committee has met twice and has been able to assist in the question of the preparation of the Budget, the operation of the Properties Fund, the maintenance of the building, and the increments to staff salaries. The Committee reports to the Ministerial Training Committee.

Recruitment for the Ministry Two enquirers conferences have been arranged during the year, one in New College, London, and the other in Manchester College. The response was encouraging, 46 attended New College and 27 Manchester College. In each case the College provided the board and lodging, the local churches the travelling expenses of the enquirers, and the Department covered the costs of administration and speakers travel. A number of those who attended have since applied for acceptance as candidates for the ministry. The Ministerial Training Committee recommends that another such conference be organised for the Spring of 1976.

Assessment Conferences Four conferences were held during 1974, attended by 38 candidates of whom 25 were commended to the Provinces for acceptance for training.

Ministerial Refresher Courses 1974 There are four forms of Refresher Courses offered to our ministers :

1. Those financed by the Kings Weigh House Trust, and under this scheme 61 ministers availed themselves of the opportunities offered, which covered 16 different courses, all but three organized ecumenically or by secular bodies such as the Marriage Guidance Council. The three main courses were two Theological Reading Parties led by Dr. John Marsh at Buttermere, and by Dr. Cunliffe Jones at Malvern, and a retreat for Prayer and Meditation led by the Revd Norman James at Woking. The Theological Reading Parties were fully booked, but the Retreat was not. Great appreciation was expressed by all who took part in all three.

2. The Westminster College Refresher Course. This was organised for the College by the Revd Prof. Martin Cressey, and ministers from each Province of the Church were invited to attend. It was attended by 26 ministers and the theme was "Salvation Today". The cost was £790 and the Ministerial Training Committee strongly recommends that this cost should be recognized as an additional item in the Westminster College budget, that the courses should be recruited nationally, with the help of the Department, and that for 1975 four free places should be offered to each Province.
103. The Refresher Course for ministers who have been ordained for three years. This course is arranged by the Department and is held in Mansfield College, Oxford. In 1974 it was attended by 19 ministers at a cost of £145.
4. The 'sabbatical' terms made available at Westminster by the Cheshunt College Trust. In 1974 six ministers attended and in addition three candidates for the Roll of Ministers examinations were in residence for one term at the invitation of the Cheshunt Governors, and under the direction of Dr. Stephen Mayor. This facility is greatly appreciated and the Department wishes to express its thanks to Cheshunt College.

The question which this report raises is the relationship of these courses to the various Provincial Summer Schools, and the relative merits of each in relation to their costs and effectiveness. This issue has been raised in the Commission on the Ministry and a fuller discussion of it could await its report.

College Reports to Assembly As requested at the last Assembly a short report on each recognized College is appended to the report (see pages 59–64).

Revision of the Regulations governing the Roll of Ministers Examinations These apply for those over 30 years of age, and the special course for those 55 and over. The revised regulations are as follows :

1. The examination is open to candidates over the age of 30 and under the age of 55 who have attended an assessment conference of the United Reformed Church and have been accepted as candidates by a Provincial Synod. There is a special course for candidates 55 and over.
2. Candidates must have passed the GCE or its equivalent at 'O' level in at least five subjects, one of which must be Use of English or English Language. English Literature, History, a language, a science, Religious Knowledge and Art are recommended optional subjects. A professional qualification may be recognised as an alternative to one or more of the optional subjects.
3. Candidates must notify the Provincial Moderator before January 31 each year that they intend to sit the appropriate part of the examination. A fee of 50p is payable each year.
4. The examination will be held in September at the place arranged by the Provincial Moderator.
5. The parts of the examination should normally be taken at yearly intervals and the whole be completed in three years. Candidates may take again any part of the examination they have failed and may apply for permission to defer parts of the examination if circumstances require, provided that the total time taken does not exceed six years.
6. Part I of the examination should normally be completed before Part II is attempted.

7. A candidate may not normally enter upon pastoral charge until he has completed the course.
 8. Candidates shall be required during their course to spend a total of at least three months working under the supervision of a minister in a local church as requested by the appropriate committee of the Synod, and further shall attend an appropriate short course arranged by one of the Theological Colleges, or by the Secretary of the Ministerial Training Committee.
- It is also strongly recommended that candidates shall spend one term in residence at one of the recognized theological colleges either during their course, or on the completion of it, preferably prior to ordination.
9. Candidates and their tutors may obtain financial assistance towards the purchase of books prescribed in the syllabus. Further details, and help in obtaining books out of print, may be obtained from the Secretary for Ministerial Training, U.R.C. 86 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9RT.

15 For candidates 55 years of age and over

1. This course is open to candidates 55 years of age and over who have attended an assessment conference of the United Reformed Church and have been accepted as candidates by a Provincial Synod.
 2. A fee of 50p is payable upon entry to the course.
203. A candidate may serve a church as a local pastor during his course of training.
4. The course must be completed within four years from entry upon it.
 5. It is strongly recommended that a candidate shall during his course
 - (a) attend any weekend or other short course arranged by the United Reformed Church or by the nearest recognised theological college;
 - 25 (b) spend at least one month working alongside the minister of a neighbouring church.
 6. Candidates and their tutors may obtain books required as reading for the essays at a reduced rate. Further details may be obtained from the Secretary for Ministerial Training, The United Reformed Church, 86 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9RT.

30 The Assembly agrees:

that the regulations governing the Roll of Ministers examinations be approved.

Recognition of Bala Bangor College The College at Bala Bangor has agreed that two of its Governors be nominated by the United Reformed Church, and formally requests recognition as a theological college for the training of Ministers for the United Reformed Church.

The Assembly agrees:

that Bala Bangor College be one of the recognized Colleges for the training of ministers for the United Reformed Church.

Roll of Ministers Examination results for 1974

- 40 Part I — 4 candidates completed the examinations.
1 was referred in one subject.
- Part II — 1 candidate only, who passed all papers.
- Part II (ii) — 4 candidates. 2 completed the course, the other 2 were referred in certain papers.

COLLEGE STATISTICS

College	Total No. in training for U.R.C. Ministry Oct. 1974	New Candidates for U.R.C. Ministry Oct. 1974	Estimated No. to enter Ministry of U.R.C.			Actual No. entered U.R.C. in '74	Total No. of Theological Students (incl. Post Grads.	Total No. of places available for Theol. Students
			'75	'76	'77			
Westminster/ Cheshunt	12	5	7	1	5	3	18	38
New	8	—	6	3	—	3	21	78
¹⁰ Manchester	27	8	5	6	5	3	29	78
Mansfield	4	—	2	2	—	1	15	35
Swansea	2	2	—	—	2	—	20	40
Roll of Ministers	9	3	3	3	3	2	—	—
¹⁵ Totals	62	18	23	15	15	12	103	269

SUPPLEMENTARY MINISTRIES COMMITTEE

Chairman: The Revd John Williamson

Secretary: The Revd Roger Tomes

In the first two years of the Church's life the Supplementary Ministries Committee has been trying to help deaconesses, local pastors and lay preachers to find their feet in the United Reformed Church. We have sought to persuade Provinces and Districts that it was primarily their responsibility to provide fellowship and stimulus for those who served in these ways, and that this could best be done, not by treating them as special categories requiring to meet in isolation, but by recognising them as partners with ministers in the nurture and mission of local churches. The response has been encouraging and we are convinced that it will grow.

As we look to the future, we can see that the importance of supplementary ministries is bound to increase. There will never again be as many ministers as there are churches, and as the United Reformed Church is committed to making the services of ministers available to every local church, there will everywhere be a need for local, part time, unpaid ministry. We have therefore taken a great interest in the work of the Commission on the Ministry and in the negotiations between the United Reformed Church and the Churches of Christ. We have tried to make sure that they have not forgotten the extensive training and experience of those who already perform many of the functions of the ministry of Word and Sacraments. We are equally anxious that our local pastors and lay preachers in particular will be adventurous and willing to be used in new ways, and not be left behind to perform the safe traditional tasks in an old fashioned way. It is for this reason that we are trying to break relatively new ground in our joint training course.

Local Pastors The normal qualification for admission to the Register of Local Pastors is that a person should have completed the Lay Preachers' Certificate Course and the Pastoralia Course, and we urge those who think they may possibly take up pastoral work on retirement to embark on this⁵ training long before. When we receive requests that those on whose behalf application is made should be excused training, we are not convinced that we do the pastors themselves a service by granting the requests, and yet we have to recognise sometimes that training has been left too late. We have recently decided to interview all candidates for admission to the Register.

¹⁰ We were asked during the year whether Districts might hold services of recognition for local pastors before their admission to the Register. As such a service should obviously come as near as possible to the beginning of a pastorate, and as a person cannot be admitted to the Register until he has been called to pastoral charge, it would be wrong to postpone the service several¹⁵ months pending the decision of the Committee. But it should be understood that the holding of the service would not make admission to the Register a foregone conclusion. We further recommend that such services be known as 'commissioning services'; the use of the term 'recognition service' should be discontinued as suggesting that the decision had already been taken.

²⁰ **Lay Preachers** A consultation which the Committee held with Provincial representatives just before the last Assembly began with a review of lay preaching in each Province, and went on to recommend that each Province should hold a conference of lay preachers with ministers and other local church leaders to explore the possibility of forming teams of ministers and²⁵ lay preachers to serve particular groups of churches. We welcome the growing tendency to hold conferences and meetings for ministers and lay preachers (and sometimes elders as well) together, rather than for each group separately. We hope also that other churches or groups of churches will follow the example of the URC/Methodist church in Thame in arranging for³⁰ Junior Church leaders, lay preachers and ministers to prepare together.

³⁵ Preparation of the joint Methodist, Baptist and United Reformed Church lay preachers' course continues. The Committee proposes to introduce the course in the autumn of 1975, let it be tested in operation and then ask Assembly to approve it as a requirement for accreditation by District Councils.

⁴⁰ The Shergold Fund was raised (a) to provide an annual prize for the best candidate in the Lay Preachers' Diploma examination of the Congregational Church and (b) to enable an address to be given at the annual meeting of the Congregational Lay Preachers' Federation. As it is now impossible to fulfil these objects to the letter, the Committee has been giving thought to the best⁴⁵ use of this small fund. In 1975 prizes will be offered for an expository sermon: details have been given in the Information Service, in Reform, and to Lay Preaching Commissioners.

Deaconesses The Committee has had before it this year, not only the concerns of Deaconesses at present serving, but also the whole question of⁴⁵ recruitment for the future. We have realised that we cannot undertake the recruitment of new Deaconesses without the clear support of Assembly. We

have therefore set out the case as we see it for a limited extension of the Diakonia service, and the Church Life Department has submitted this to the Commission on the Ministry in order that it may be considered alongside other proposals about future forms of ministry. We believe that Deaconesses⁵ could provide the nucleus for a 'flexible task force' of specially trained full time church workers available to help in certain pioneering or team situations, supported centrally by the whole church and not therefore dependent on the availability of local resources.

We appreciate that in most ex-Presbyterian congregations there are groups¹⁰ of women, formerly members of the Women's Home Church Association, who anxiously await news of the future of the Deaconess service, Having been intimately involved in its support in the past, they hope to see its scope widened and strengthened in the URC. Partly for their benefit and partly to provide information to those with no experience of the Deaconess service¹⁵ as at present constituted, we are providing some basic information as an appendix. (see pages 64, 65).

THE MINISTRY OF HEALING GROUP

Chairman: The Revd Alan Whillis

Secretary: The Revd Charles Meachin

²⁰The Ministry of Healing Group within the Church Life Department urge the Church to take seriously its responsibility for the well being of the whole man. Jesus Christ in his earthly ministry brought healing to men in all aspects of their being. He is alive today with the same power, and he chooses still to work with man's co-operation. We give thanks for all healing down the²⁵ centuries in the Church and through medical and caring agencies in the world, which has flowed from Christ's work.

In the human experience of suffering, pain and death the presence of the living Christ is still known within the healing fellowship of the people of God and the loving care of concerned individuals. Some, by victorious³⁰ living, have surmounted suffering and pain. Many have experienced in suffering the grace of God which was sufficient for their need. Even death may sometimes be seen as an act of divine deliverance.

The worship and life of the Church include a healing ministry. We believe that God continues to heal through the corporate worship and fellowship³⁵ of the Church. Some have found benefit through the laying on of hands and anointing with oil as a means of healing. The group is examining these practices. It is also considering the preparation of suitable Orders of Service for healing.

The Assembly urges:

⁴⁰ local churches to inform themselves more fully about the healing ministry of the Church and consider how they may better exercise this ministry.

CHAPLAINS AND STUDENT WORKING PARTY

Chairman: The Revd Robert O. Latham

Secretary: The Revd Michael J. Davies

The Working Party met on four occasions in 1974 and continues to try to⁵ keep in touch with chaplains and URC students' societies and with Provincial Moderators on chaplaincy and student matters. It has received a number of annual reports and is interested to note the wide variety of chaplaincies. It notes with great concern, however, the failure of so many local churches to forward the names of those commencing courses away from home either¹⁰ to the Church Life Department or to the relevant chaplain direct. Since it is difficult to make an up-to-date list of chaplains available for every church it again asks Assembly to pass the following resolution :

The Assembly agrees that:

¹⁵ Ministers and Church Secretaries be urged to forward to the Church Life Department the name and college addresses (or, if not known, details of the college, course and home address) of students, nurses, etc. commencing studies at any Higher Education Establishment by September 15th each year.

A form for this purpose will be sent out in the June Information Service and it should be noted that even details of students studying outside England²⁰ and Wales should be included as these can also be forwarded to chaplains or local contacts in most cases.

Some 16 URC chaplains took part in the bi-annual Ecumenical Chaplains' Conference at Swanwick in September and the Working Party arranged a 24 hour URC Chaplains Consultation immediately preceding this which was²⁵ attended by 12 chaplains. Both events were felt to be most useful training exercises and a further Consultation will be held on July 7/8 1975 in Birmingham and it is hoped that all chaplains will do their best to attend.

In previous years Assembly has agreed that detailed implementation of policy on chaplaincy matters, including appointment of and relations with³⁰ individual chaplains and the financing of URC participation in the work of chaplains within Higher Education Establishments, should be the responsibility of the Provinces. Chaplains' reports indicate a wide variety of practice throughout the URC and the Working Party has drawn up some general guidelines which may be of assistance to Provinces. A memorandum has³⁵ been circulated to Provincial Moderators outlining these guidelines.

The Secretary of the Working Party meets periodically with those responsible for chaplaincy matters in the other principal denominations. The number of ecumenical chaplaincies (i.e. recognised by Free Churches, Anglicans and, in some cases, Roman Catholic) and of ecumenical chaplains teams is⁴⁰ growing and there is a possibility of producing a central register of all chaplains serving Establishments of Higher Education in England and Wales.

THE BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY

The Bible Societies serve all churches at every point where they use Bible in their programmes. WORD IN ACTION is the slogan to which the B.F.B.S. aspires as a description of what it seeks to do. The Society sees its role as that of helping the family of man to witness to and share the light of God through the Gospel, to do this more widely, to do it more economically and to do it ever more imaginatively.

Distribution of the scriptures by the B.F.B.S. increased by 50% in 1973. Other Bible publishers also reported remarkable sales of modern versions. ¹⁰There has been a 14% overall world increase in the distribution of the scriptures. The Today's English version New Testament has been reissued with a reading plan to guide the reader through the book in one year.

The weekly worship leaflets, 'Today's Worship' (one of the many WORD IN ACTION leaflets) containing Bible passages for each Sunday based on the ¹⁵Calendar of Lessons drawn up by the Joint Liturgical Group have a circulation of 20,000 per week. Details of these leaflets and other imaginative Bible Society publications can be found in the B.F.B.S. catalogue.

Two main events planned for Wales in 1975 are the publication of the new Welsh translation of the New Testament and the 'Wales for Christ' ²⁰campaign.

The Department is involved in the work of the Churches' Consultative Group of the British and Foreign Bible Society.

The Assembly agrees that:

this report be received.

²⁵ CHURCH LIFE DEPARTMENT REPORT: APPENDIX 1

COLLEGE REPORTS

Westminster and Cheshunt Colleges, Cambridge

The Joint Committee of the authorities of Westminster and Cheshunt Colleges has received reports from the Joint Board of Studies, Senatus, ³⁰and House Committee, of which the substance follows:

At the beginning of 1974 there were 10 students in training, three of whom completed the college course and have been ordained and inducted to charges in the United Reformed Church. For the session 1974/5, 12 ordinands of the URC (including 5 new entrants) and one from the Greek Evangelical ³⁵Church are taking the regular course. Other theological students in residence come from Scotland, Ireland, Wales, New Zealand, Australia, the U.S.A., Canada and the Netherlands, including three post-graduate students in the University. Seven visiting scholars on sabbatical leave from Canada and the U.S.A. share in college life. Candidates for the Roll of Ministers Examinations,

and U.R.C. ministers on sabbatical leave, continue to enjoy facilities provided by the Cheshunt Foundation; the Joint Committee would commend these facilities for a term's residence, and encourage others to take advantage of them.

⁵ There is increasing co-operation with the other theological colleges in Cambridge. Staff members are involved in inter-theological college teaching in Worship and Christian Ethics, and share in the work of the Cambridge Theological Colleges Certificate in Pastoral Theology, which has continued under the direction of Dr. Mayor and was completed by two students of the college in 1974. Our staff have also lectured in the New Testament, Church History, and Islamic studies. Principal A. G. MacLeod has completed his two-year period of office as Chairman of the University Faculty of Divinity. Professor John O'Neill has been appointed Cunningham Lecturer at the University of Edinburgh for 1974/77.

¹⁵ The Ministers' Refresher Course was held in June 1974, organised by Professor M. H. Cressey, who is also responsible for the 1975 course. Other conferences have included the Eastern and Thames North Provincial Summer School and other meetings arranged by U.R.C. Departments.

The Students, Senatus and Board of Studies have all contributed to the ²⁰discussions initiated by the Commission on the Ministry.

The Grants Committee made awards to students amounting to £6,255, towards which the Governors of Cheshunt contributed £2,075.

The Chapel has been enriched by new curtains, and copies of the Church Hymnary (3rd edition), given in memory of the Revd E. C. Lane by his friends.

²⁵ The maintenance of the buildings has included repairs to the boilers and hot water system and the redecoration of the corridors and some students' rooms. There has been difficulty in finding suitable domestic and catering staff, and we are indebted to Mrs. P. Thwaite, the housekeeper-caterer, and her staff who have often had to work shorthanded.

³⁰ The Joint Committee, whose task has included the annual review of the joint operation of the two colleges, finds that this part of its work has been largely taken over by the Joint Senatus, Board of Studies and House Committee, and may be remitted to them. It is therefore proposed that the Joint Committee should continue in being, but meet only as and when necessary, ³⁵and a resolution to that effect is presented to the Assembly and the Governors.

The Assembly agrees:

that four representatives of the United Reformed Church and of the Cheshunt College Governors should continue to be elected annually by each of those bodies to form a Joint Committee, to be available to negotiate as and when necessary any matters ⁴⁰concerning the future relationships of the colleges, and the resolution of any problems or difficulties which may arise.

The Congregational College, Manchester

Students During the year we have had 88 students on the College roll, including 27 in training for the U.R.C. ministry. Eleven married students are

living in flats in the vicinity of the College. Of the nearly 60 non-theological students we have had students from the whole range of University faculties, including Science, Arts, Music, Dentistry and Engineering. We have been especially glad to welcome eight post-graduate students from overseas.

⁵ Of the theological students 12 are taking graduate courses for either the B.A. Theol. or the B.D. degree, with two taking courses preparatory to the M.A. Theol. At the close of the session in June 1974 one student completed the B.D. degree and four gained their B.A. Theol., with another student being awarded the Diploma of Pastoral and Social Theology. Two ¹⁰non-graduate students gained the Certificate in Theology and four completed the Certificate in Biblical Knowledge. Four students completed their training and these were ordained at Stockport, Middlewich and Corby, with one returning to the U.S.A. to seek a pastorate there. In the new academic session commencing in October 1974 we were glad to receive 8 new candidates for ¹⁵the U.R.C. ministry.

Staff The full time staff have been the Principal (Revd Dr. Edgar Jones) and the Senior Lecturer (The Revd J. H. E. Hull) who is also part-time lecturer in the University of Manchester in New Testament. Four part-time lecturers have completed our teaching staff—the Revd A. G. Burnham and ²⁰Revd David Jenkins, (who are the leaders of the South West Manchester Group of Churches and greatly reinforce the practical training of the students) the Revd John D. Salsbury, and Mr. David Goodbourn who serves both us and the Northern Baptist College lecturing in Church and Community Studies, and Adult Education.

²⁵**Ecumenical Work** We continue to share with the Baptist College and the Methodist group of students in the Joint Final Year Course, the Revd A. G. Burnham sharing in this work. First and second year courses in Old Testament and New Testament are given by the Principal, the Revd J. H. E. Hull, and the Revd David Jenkins for all theological colleges including the Unitarian ³⁰College. Our second year students share in lectures on Theology at the Baptist College.

Lay Training During the past session we continued our attempt to provide training for the church as a whole by providing courses of evening lectures for laymen, on such subjects as The Triumph of Job, I Corinthians, Pastoral ³⁵Work and the Layman. To supplement these experiments in lay training at Manchester the College staff visited Sheffield in the Spring of 1974 to give a series of lecture discussions on *A Faith for Today*. This was well received by an enrolment of over 60 people.

Mansfield College, Oxford

⁴⁰Since this report covers parts of two academic years, it must begin with some reference to the achievements of 1973-4. Among the honours which came to Mansfield men during the year were two of outstanding distinction; the ward of the Companion of Honour to the Principal Emeritus, Dr. Nathaniel Micklethorp, for services to Theology; and the award of the Grosse Bundes- ⁴⁵verdienstkreuz (Grand Cross of the Order of Merit) to Dr. Herbert Hartwell

on his eightieth birthday for services to Anglo-German understanding and reconciliation. Among those in residence one was awarded the B.C.L., one became the first person to be awarded a B.Phil, in Theology since the inauguration of the degree two years ago, four others have successfully completed⁵ the D.Phil; and of these Dr. M. P. Mahony continues on the staff of the College, Dr. C. P. Thompson has been elected to a Research Lectureship in Spanish at Christ Church, Dr. C. C. Conti has been appointed to a lectureship in Religious Studies at the University of Sussex, and Dr. W. J. Houston has entered the pastoral ministry of the U.R.C.

¹⁰For 1974-5 we have been able to add to the existing staff (Principal, five tutorial fellows in Theology, English, History, Law and Geography, two lecturers in English and Chemistry, Bursar, and Librarian) three new appointments. The Revd Charles Brock has for many years been associated with the College as Chaplain to the Congregational (subsequently the U.R.C.)
¹⁵students in the University, and now, thanks to help from the Western College Trust, we have appointed him Fellow, Chaplain to the College, and Tutor in Pastoral Theology. After a number of one-year appointments to the post of Lutheran World Federation Fellow, we have welcomed the Revd Paul Wee to a three-year appointment. Through a grant from the Leverhulme Trust we
²⁰have been able to appoint Mr. J. D. H. Collinson to a Research Fellowship in Social Ecology.

We have eighty-seven students in residence, of whom fifteen are reading Theology. Eight are ordinands, four for the U.R.C. ministry; two are migrant students, one from Japan and one from Malaysia, and five others are reading
²⁵for graduate degrees. In addition we have eight professors on sabbatical leave spending all or part of the year as visiting members of the Senior Common Room.

Finally, we would wish to congratulate the Chairman of the College Council, Lord Armstrong, on his life peerage.

³⁰**New College, London**

Students In June 1974, five students completed their course of training for the Christian ministry. Three of these have settled in the United Reformed Church, one in another denomination, while the fifth is pursuing her studies in the United States. Three non-Foundation students also left, after gaining
³⁵the B.D. degree. In October, 1974, the College received five students for the degree course but no candidates for the U.R.C. ministry. Our total number of theological students now stands at 21. Of these, five are doing post-graduate work, nine are preparing for the ministry and seven are studying for the degree for other purposes. Thus the majority of the 78 students who fill our
⁴⁰hostel are members of other Colleges in the University. Despite the smallness of our numbers College life is lively. The annual student mission continues, while the effort for Christian Aid exceeds £1,000.

Staff The full-time staff consists of the Principal, the Revd Dr. Charles S. Duthie, the Revd Dr. G. F. Nuttall (Lecturer in Church History and Librarian),
⁴⁵now completing his thirtieth year in the service of the College, and the Revd

Dr. W. G. Morrice (Lecturer in New Testament). Part-time help is given by two former students, Mr. D. A. Craig of the S.P.C.K., and the Revd C. W. Lucraft. Our practical programme draws heavily on various specialists in the London area, including members of the staff at 86 Tavistock Place.

⁵ New College continues to co-operate fully with Heythrop College and King's College. Dr. Duthie has been appointed Chairman of the Board of Studies in Theology for the period January 1975 to December 1976.

Finance The income of £49,482 showed an improvement of £4,760 over the previous year, but as expenditure totalled £50,749 there was a deficit¹⁰ of £1,267.

The Future The result of a series of important discussions was that on 20th September 1974, the Board of Governors of New College decided to recommend to the Annual General Meeting of Members (to be held on 12th June, 1975) 'that in its present form the work of the College be discontinued¹⁵ from the end of the academic year 1976-77'. This means that New College will cease on that date to be a School of Divinity of the University of London. It remains to discover how best its resources can be used to further the purpose for which it exists, namely to train men and women for the Christian ministry and to propagate the Gospel.

²⁰ **Memorial College, Swansea**

We have 27 students in full-time attendance. 20 intend to enter the ministry (including two who, having already attended the College for some time as non-ministerial students, have now felt persuaded to offer themselves for the ministry).

²⁵ Of the 20 only two belong to the U.R.C., and one of these is still not recognised as a ministerial candidate. Of the rest, three are Unitarians (of the Welsh rural variety), two belong to the Congregational Federation and one is the pastor of an autonomous fellowship founded by himself. The remainder are Union of Welsh Independents candidates. Very recently one of the³⁰ Congregational Federation students has expressed a desire to be transferred to the United Reformed Church and is, I believe, in touch with the Moderator. 16 students are pursuing the University of Wales B.D. course and 10 the University Diploma in Theology course. One is pursuing full-time research. The staff are also supervising the preparation of Ph.D. or M.Th. dissertations³⁵ by five other candidates who have left their colleges.

In 1974 two students completed their B.D. degree and two their University Diploma in Theology (with merit). During 1974 there were three ordinations.

Staff The full-time staff are the Revds D. L. Trefor Evans, Maurice Loader, Dewi Eirug Davies and the Principal, Pennar Davies. The Revd D. Elwyn⁴⁰ Davies gives part-time assistance in Philosophy of Religion. All are active participants in the work of the University of Wales Faculty of Theology. Members of the staff have served as Dean of Divinity and Departmental Secretaries.

Executive Committee The Chairman this session is Mrs. J. T. Morgan well known for her Christian leadership and a member of Walter Road United Reformed Church.

Publication The College has published a lecture on Preaching delivered before past and present students by the Moderator for Wales, the Revd W. J. Samuel.

CHURCH LIFE DEPARTMENT: APPENDIX 2

DEACONESSES

A. The following are the Deaconesses at present serving the URC:

<i>10</i> Name and address	<i>First</i> commissioned	<i>Present appointment</i>	<i>Province and</i> <i>District</i>
Miss Eileen M. Gooding 42 Edmunds Tower Harlow, Essex	1949	Harlow Team Ministry in association with the Revd Michael Melvin. 3 years from Jan. 1975	Eastern (Chelmsford)
<i>15</i> Miss Lilian Blythin 1 Beaconsfield Sq., Hartlepool, Cleveland	1957	Durham St., Hartlepool in association with the Revd Dr. A. R. Ritchie. 3 years from Apr. 1975	Northern (Teesside)
<i>20</i> Miss Aileen M. Mortimer, B.Sc. 48 Hampshire Street, Salford, Lancs.	1961	Singleton, Salford. 3 years from Sept. 1972	North West (NE Manchester)
<i>25</i> Miss Patricia F. Parrish, 3 Station View, Fairfield, Droylsden, Manchester.	1962	St. Paul's, Openshaw. 3 years from Sept. 1972	North West (SE Manchester)
<i>30</i> Miss Madge P. Saunders, 373 Andover Street, Sheffield	1966	St. James's, Sheffield in association with the Revd V. L. Sheldrick (with the financial support of the Sheffield Committee for Community Relations). Returning to West Indies Sept. 1975	Yorkshire (Sheffield)
<i>35</i> Miss Kay Salvage, 81 New Kent Road, London SE1	1975	Crossway, London SE1 in association with the Revd R. H. Essex in Ecumenical Team. 6 months probation from Jan. 1975	Southern (Bromley)
<i>40</i>			

B. Other Deaconesses, not in active service at present:

Miss J. Audrey Langdon, 12 Morrit Court, Long Benton, 5 Newcastle upon Tyne	1948	Leave of absence for domestic reasons
Mrs. Joan Johansen-Berg, The Rock Church Centre, Red Rock Street, Everton, Liverpool	1966	ditto
10 Miss Jean McCallum, Westminster College, Cambridge	1971	Training for URC ministry

C. A sample of the varied types of situation in which Deaconesses have played a key role over the years:

15 *Pioneering new areas of church extension*
Wideopen; Seaton Delaval; Lockleaze; Wythenshawe; Thornaby;
Billingham; Dunstable.

Work in down town redevelopment areas
20 Stepney; Battersea Rise; Byker; Nechells; Openshaw; Singleton;
Newington; Everton.

Promoting team work, linking a number of grouped churches
SE London Group; Birkenhead Team Ministry.

Pioneering Christian education in an established congregation
Clfeam; Allerton.

25 *Community relations work*
St. James's, Sheffield.

D. Deaconesses are ordained to their office, and should be invited to serve on the Elders' Meetings of any churches they are serving. They are not 'called' but rather commissioned and appointed for a limited period of service—usually three years, but extendable—by agreement with the Supplementary Ministries Committee, the District Council and the local church. The local church or District Council is responsible for finding expenses and a reasonable contribution towards salary and housing, depending on its resources. A special privilege that is part of their conditions of service deserves to be copied more widely: they are encouraged to take three months' sabbatical leave every seven years for refresher courses!

WORLD CHURCH AND MISSION DEPARTMENT

CENTRAL COMMITTEE

The appointment of Dr. J. Huxtable as Executive Officer of the Commission on Unity entailed his resignation as Secretary of the Department, and all its⁵ members wish to place on record their appreciation of the services he has rendered to the Department since its inception, and their good wishes to him in his new work. The Executive Committee of General Assembly has appointed the Revd B. Anderson as Departmental Secretary, and the Rt. Revd A. L. Macarthur as Secretary of the Missionary and Ecumenical Work at Home¹⁰ Committee. The Central Committee is very grateful for these appointments, but continues to be concerned by the serious understaffing of the Department Office.

The work of the Department during the past year has been principally directed to the subjects of Evangelism and of the CWM Singapore Consultation.¹⁵ These matters are dealt with in detail in the Committee Reports. Procedures with regard to the Singapore Consultation do, however, require some explanation.

Copies of the official Record of the Consultation were made available by CWM to its Constituent Bodies at the end of January and have been studied²⁰ and discussed by the Department at national and Provincial levels. The Department agreed to define its own attitude to the Report's important proposals on the structure of CWM as follows:—

“Believing that the time is ripe for every Church, whether at present a Constituent Body of CWM or one of its Associated Churches overseas, to share fully in all responsibilities of the Council; and that a new and very²⁵ different structure will be necessary for this to take place;

Welcomes the outline of such a structure put forward in the Report, and hopes that it may prove possible for firm proposals to be ready for presentation to the Assemblies of the Constituent Bodies in 1976.”

³⁰ The writing of this Report precedes the CWM Board's own discussion of the Consultation's proposals, which is due to take place on 15th—16th April. In the light of the Board's decisions at that time and any recommendations it may make to its Constituent Bodies, a Resolution will be prepared by the WCM Department Executive for presentation to the Assembly.

³⁵ The Central Committee has also dealt with a number of important matters. It gave further consideration to the URC support of the work of St. Andrew's Hall, Birmingham and made recommendations to the Assembly Executive which were accepted. Reports were received on the work of the Central Committee of WCC and the European Committee of The World Alliance of⁴⁰ Reformed Churches where Mr. J. Gilbey continues to give valuable service.

Consequent upon the decision of the URC to enter into full membership with the Conference of European Churches, the Chairman represented the Church at the 7th Assembly of Conference of European Churches in Switzerland last September. He was able to report back to the Central Committee⁵ on the growing significance and importance of CEC for the work and witness of virtually all the Churches of Europe, and of the important part which British Churches could play in the work of the Conference. The Committee is concerned to commend the work and needs of CEC through our churches.

The Committee is submitting a resolution for the deepening of the relationship¹⁰ between our Church and the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea.

The Committee hopes that all our churches will be able to share in the preparations for the forthcoming Assembly of the World Council of Churches in Nairobi, and commends the Study Kit which has been prepared by the BCC.

¹⁵ The Committee has recommended to the Finance and Administration Department that the sum of £298,200 be accepted as the URC's contribution to CWM work in 1976.

Brian M. Pratt, *Chairman*
Boris Anderson, *Secretary*

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MISSIONARY AND ECUMENICAL WORK AT HOME

As was promised in last year's report the Committee has concentrated its attention over the past twelve months on the theme of evangelism as a task laid upon the churches together. Thus the main part of this report is given to²⁵ material arising from this discussion and from the work done in two Provinces at our request on ecumenical partnership for mission in rural areas. Our study will continue through contacts with regional movements such as 'Call to the North' and with varied types of local ecumenism. We welcome also the clear expression by the Group for Evangelism and Renewal of "its commitment to³⁰ the United Reformed Church within which it seeks to work"; this Group of ministers and laity is maintaining liaison with the Committee.

Ecumenical Structures The year has brought a number of developments in the ecumenical structures through which we work. The churches in England have set up the Churches' Unity Commission with Dr. Huxtable as³⁵ its full-time Executive Officer; the new initials C.U.C. now appear along with C.C.L.E.P.E. the Consultative Committee for Local Ecumenical Projects in England, which still deals with detailed matters. C.C.L.E.P.E. has recently produced a report on *The Creation of Local Ecumenical Projects* which together with documents from the December 1974 High Leigh consultation⁴⁰ with local projects and sponsoring bodies will provide important material for the Committee's work over the next year.

In Wales the URC is one of the Churches that have covenanted together "to work and pray in common obedience to our Lord Jesus Christ, in order that by the Holy Spirit we may be brought into one visible Church to serve⁴⁵ together in mission to the glory of God the Father". The national movements

in England and Wales are held together with national multilateral conversations in Ireland and Scotland through the Division of Ecumenical Affairs of the British Council of Churches. The talks with the Churches of Christ, on which the Joint Committee reports separately, have had constantly in mind this broader background of the quest for unity.

Ecumenical Opportunities For the individual minister and congregation these structures can easily seem remote. We have therefore sought opportunities for ecumenical experience that can be made available to individuals and local groups. Six URC ministers have taken one or more of the three-week courses in the Training in Mission Programme at the Selly Oak Colleges. A letter of advice has been prepared to assist local churches where URC/Methodist co-operation has begun or is being planned (now over one hundred in number). Some personal contacts have been arranged with local churches in Northern Ireland. The URC Province of Wales is developing close relations with the Presbyterian Church of Wales to further pastoral care and mission. Regulations are being prepared to clarify the situation with regard to mutual eligibility of ministers between the URC and sister Reformed Churches; the Committee has given general approval to these and the Applications Committee is bringing the details before the Assembly.

The Secretaryship The considerable amount of detailed work summarised in the two preceding paragraphs and forming the particular remit of our committee owes much to the Revd Boris Anderson and his secretary, Miss Margaret Fidgeon. With Dr. Huxtable's appointment to C.U.C., the Executive Committee of the Assembly, on appointing Mr. Anderson as Secretary of the Department, asked Mr. Macarthur to undertake the Secretaryship of the Home Committee along with his work as sole General Secretary. The General Secretary is naturally in touch with the officers of other British Churches and so can readily take this part of our inter-church relations into his work.

Evangelism and the Local Church—Preconditions From this year's study the Committee has reached some agreed views on the preconditions for evangelism.

A. *The Local Church*

The Committee is convinced that the quality of local church life is central to evangelistic outreach. Unless there is a lively christian fellowship into which enquirers can be drawn, the Church's message, however effectively or widely broadcast, will not come to fruition.

The Committee readily acknowledges that there are local churches, of all denominations, which do provide such a fellowship, and that in a variety of contexts the Church is growing; but it is also aware that in the majority of cases this is not so. Few enquirers brought up outside the Church could be invited to attend a service at most of our churches with any real hope that they would be attracted to pursue their enquiries further. Many former members (and for that matter present members) of our churches feel themselves alienated from what goes on in the local fellowship.

It is useless to plan any outreach campaign, or any modification of premises, unless this issue is squarely faced. Recognition of weakness and failure here and a consequent readiness for radical change is the necessary and unavoidable first step.

⁵B. *Quality of Life*

What are the qualities necessary to such a transformation ?

The first essential for a local church is that its members share their Christian discipleship at a deep level, their insights and happiness as well as their problems and tears. As long as members' knowledge of each other remains ¹⁰on a superficial level, there will be no real community, and therefore no attraction for those outside. On the other hand openness and sincerity, simplicity and warmth between members of the church can enable newcomers to feel at home ; and confidence in God, a humble sense of expectancy and a ¹⁵real concern for others can draw in those in doubt and discouragement about life. This can happen through traditional and conservative approaches as well as through radical experiments.

Quality of life does not, however, merely relate to life within the local church community. The church needs to show through the daily lives of its members that it offers valid ways of life which are alternatives to materialism ²⁰and the rat race.

C. *Worship*

The Committee believes that the full quality of local church life should be taken up into and fed by its worship in a way now rarely seen. The gifts and experience of every member are needed for such worship, and ways must ²⁵accordingly be found for all to participate in planning and action.

The charismatic movement may have much to teach us here ; and there is need to consider a wide variety of ways to recapture the human imagination for the worship of God.

Within new patterns of worship the declaration of the good news of Jesus ³⁰Christ, the sharing of it by word of mouth, must continue to have a central place. How this is most effectively done and who should do it are matters which require urgent re-consideration in the light of present day ways of communication and learning among individuals and groups.

The provision of appropriate settings for worship, though secondary, has ³⁵importance. Flexible arrangement is needed to facilitate participation and spontaneity.

D. *Leadership*

The Committee believes that the existing leadership of the local church has a great opportunity before it. A new emphasis, however, is needed. Ministers ⁴⁰and elders must regard the encouragement of all members to participate in the central spiritual tasks of the Church as their first priority. Adequate channels must be provided for all to be fully creative in the teaching, worship, service and decision making of the church community.

For this purpose the most hopeful channel is the small group. Where the members of the group are committed to each other and to Christ, new life can be expected to emerge. The formation and encouragement of such groups to experiment in differing aspects of christian discipleship, and the integration⁵ of their experience with the total life of the church is a major role for elders' and Church meetings. Group leadership from the minister or lay leader requires skills and attitudes very different from those of the continuing work of preaching and pastoral care. Groups must not become cliques, but on the contrary must serve to break down, through more intimate contact, some of¹⁰ the divisions between "evangelical" and "ecumenical", "devotional" and "activist" and the like which sometimes make christian co-operation difficult.

E. *The Future*

It is implied in the above that there is no easy or speedy way to evangelism ; no campaign or technique or study programme which will provide a ready¹⁵ made answer to problems of mission in Britain. Even within the URC alone the varieties of personal gift and of local situations are very great, to say nothing of other denominations with whom URC local churches are increasingly involved.

At the Reformation deep-going changes in the patterns of church life arose²⁰ from a new understanding of and response to the gospel. What sprang from those changes has continued to be fruitful over four centuries and more but if the patterns established at the Reformation are regarded as unchangeable, we shall be guilty of a betrayal of the very principles of Reformation. It is true of churches as of individuals that "continually, while still alive, we are being²⁵ surrendered into the hands of death, for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be revealed in this mortal body of ours" (2 Cor. 4, 11). In this spirit the Committee will continue its study of local ecumenical projects as partnerships for mission and meanwhile asks the Assembly to encourage study of these issues throughout the Church. They are issues which involve not only³⁰ the Department but also the Church Life concern for the mission of every local URC Church, the Church and Society concern for the expression of the gospel in the community, the Finance and Administration concern for planning in new areas and stewardship of resources: hence the second recommendation (Resolution 2).

³⁵**Mission in Rural Areas** The Committee has been concerned not to overlook ecumenism and evangelism in rural areas, and has been grateful for helpful papers prepared by the Northern and South West Provinces on the present situation in rural areas, and future possibilities. These surveys suggest the following analysis of the situation in rural England (that in Wales being⁴⁰ distinct in several ways, though some of what follows is applicable) :

1. The "crisis of ministry" experienced throughout the Church through decline in size of the local church ; inflation ; and shortage of ministers, poses particularly acute problems in rural areas because of the distances between congregations. This means that merging local churches, in order to retain one⁴⁵ reasonable size congregation which may be a possible solution in urban areas, is inappropriate rurally. Grouping several churches together to provide

a "viable" number of members (viable in financial terms when measured by urban standards) is very demanding on a minister called to serve up to six churches, and it is unsatisfying for the churches in the villages in which the minister does not live.

⁵² The number of members necessary for an effective fellowship in rural areas is smaller than that needed in towns.

3. The village church plays a more dominant role in its community than the town church does in its community. With the closing of many village primary schools the church leader will likely be the main leader in the community and ¹⁰the church the main place for community life.

4. Progress of ecumenical relations is more patchy in the rural area than in the town, and depends far more on the personality of the ministers and clergy. An unsympathetic minister or parson can block progress altogether, and few village Councils of Churches exist where local congregational ¹⁵contacts can circumvent this obstruction.

5. With some exceptions the URC is thinly and unevenly spread in rural areas. In places it can claim equality with the Church of England. But since the steep decline recently of rural Methodism the Anglicans dominate the Christian life of rural England. This means that unless the vicar is really ²⁰sympathetic little progress can be made: where no Free Church exists in a parish or group of parishes the vicar may feel that there is no demand for an ecumenical dimension in his area, and even the enthusiastic vicar may be handicapped by the lack of a definable Free Church fellowship with whom to create a really united local ecumenical church.

²⁵6. Social changes (e.g. the decline of the number of workers on the land; price of housing; "dormitory villages"; holiday homes) mean that in some cases an elderly and understandably conservative village church membership is unwilling to see change spread to the church as well. Some may reject any constructive alternative to the inevitable paralysis and death to which they ³⁰are heading.

7. Most of our rural church buildings are less than 150 years old, while many parish churches are much older, and of historical value. This means that although the URC building in a village may be more suitable for modern ideas of worship, more flexible and adaptable, it is also the one which can be ³⁵ sold. There is a considerable moral and legal obligation on the Church of England to maintain its historic churches (you can hardly sell a 15th century church and graveyard for warehouse or holiday cottage!).

The Committee has not yet had time to formulate considered guidance for the Assembly. Moreover, an interchurch working party founded by the ⁴⁰ Anglican Board for Mission and Unity should complete its work in 1975. The Committee is nevertheless convinced that discussion must be stimulated and presents the following "theses" as a starting point:

Theses for Discussion in Synods, District Councils and local churches

1. (a) The finance, leadership and service of the Christian community in ⁴⁵ rural areas is best served by one Christian fellowship in one building, and this

is the norm to which the URC should work through its local churches, District Councils and Synods, rather than create groups of scattered URC churches with peripatetic ministers.

(b) In some areas it may be necessary for the URC as a first step to work⁵ with Baptists/Methodists for a united Free Church; in most places joint work with the Anglicans will be possible from the start.

2. This policy calls for a realistic partnership between Anglicans and Free Churches, and must be worked out over a wide area containing many villages so that the needs and contributions of the denominations are present in a¹⁰ balanced way. It involves (i) arranging that, as far as possible, at least one minister or clergyman lives in each village so that each village feels it has some personal pastoral oversight; (ii) using URC lay leadership creatively to ensure adequate URC participation in ecumenical leadership; and (iii) offering free church participants a place in every local church organisation and a meaning-¹⁵ful share in worship. In almost every case this will mean the detailed planning and work of preparing a Sharing Agreement under the Sharing of Church Buildings Act which gives proper form and safeguards of continuity to local arrangements.

3. In view of the difficulties of many local situations, effective local initiative²⁰ must be fostered and supported by the wider Church, and in particular have the active support of Anglican Bishop, Methodist Chairman, Baptist Superintendent, and URC Provincial Moderator (and one Provincial Moderator may have to deal with several Bishops and more than one Methodist Chairman). The local churches and the District Council can take useful initiatives, but²⁵ practice shows that the most success comes where Bishop, Moderator, Chairman and Superintendent are actively working together. An important step is for Moderators and District Councils to discover the likely support from the local Bishop and Chairman, and Superintendent, and where this is good, action should be taken.

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Martin H. Cressey, *Chairman*
Arthur L. Macarthur, *Secretary*

MISSIONARY AND ECUMENICAL WORK ABROAD

Council for World Mission Five-Yearly Policy Review The policy review has been the major item on the agenda of the Committee during the³⁵ year. The recommendations of the Consultations held in Singapore, attended by three members of the Committee, stress the reciprocity of mission, and the desirability of re-structuring CWM. The desire for a continuing exchange of experience and people in different ways underlines the recognition of the need for co-operation. The proposals made regarding *structure* are fundamen-⁴⁰tal—they will give form to a new relationship between all the Churches associated with CWM in which all will have a voice in determining policy and sharing opportunities for mission. The old pattern of “sending” and “receiving” churches would give way to something corresponding more closely to the present situation, in which churches wish both to give and⁴⁵ receive according to their situation.

Ten CWM missionaries, members of the URC, resigned or retired during the year, and four new ones were appointed.

Advocacy of World Mission and the support of CWM has continued through deputation visits to all URC Provinces and through the supply of printed materials. Samples of all new materials have been sent out to local churches through the Information Service, and further orders despatched from the Church Offices on request.

Finance Through the Unified Appeal, £284,000 was contributed towards the work of CWM. This represents 100% of the target.

Besides £4,250 to the CWM for non-recurring grants, other grants totalling £4,875 were made for a number of projects, including St. Andrew's Hall, the Ghanaian Chaplaincy in London, scholarships for leader training etc. The future use of the funds of the Committee inherited from the Presbyterian Church is being studied in detail.

London Chaplaincies At a service held at Whitefield Memorial Church on October 7th, 1974, the Revd Ben Tetley (from Ghana) and the Revd Chong Kah Geh (from Singapore) were inducted to the Chaplaincies of the Ghanaian and Chinese students respectively. Mr. Tetley replaces the Revd A. Y. Wurapa, but Mr. Chong Kah Geh is the first Chaplain to the Chinese students. His appointment has been made possible through the co-operation of the Presbyterian Church of Singapore and Malaysia, the CWM and the London Provinces of URC.

Overseas Work of the Churches of Christ In anticipation of closer working together the Committee heard an outline of the overseas work of the Churches of Christ by the General Secretary, the Revd Philip Morgan

South Africa The Committee had continued correspondence formerly carried on by the PCE with the Dutch Reformed Church of South Africa. Discussions of apartheid and related issues finally led to an invitation from the DRC for URC to send a group to visit South Africa, see the situation, and carry on discussions there. After consideration and consultation with Congregational and Presbyterian Churches in South Africa and with CWM, it was decided to accept the invitation. It is hoped to send two URC representatives to South Africa later this year.

Training St. Andrew's Hall, Selly Oak, Birmingham, which provides excellent facilities for the training of students in World Mission, is supported by the Baptist Missionary Society, CWM and URC. The URC recently pledged support for a further period.

Europe URC has become a member of the Conference of European Churches (CEC) and was represented at the Nyborg VII Conference, held in September, by the Revd Brian Pratt, Chairman of the Department. More informal contacts have taken place between URC groups and other continental churches, in particular the Reformed Church of France, the Swedish Mission Covenant and the Palatinate Church. Invitations to attend the Forum were sent to a number of European Churches, whilst ways of continuing and improving relationships at various levels are being actively considered.

Trevor Beeson's book *Discretion and Valour*, which reviews the position of churches in Eastern Europe, was noted and commended.

Asia Concern was shown in various ways for the churches in Korea and Taiwan. Relationships with Taiwan go back over a century. Those with ⁵Korea are more recent. Over the last few years friendship has been developing particularly with the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea (PROK). The General Assembly of the Church has resolved to seek closer relationships with the URC on the basis laid out in Resolution 4.

The Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea is a leading participant in ¹⁰the stand for human rights now being made in South Korea. This is referred to in the report of the Church and Society Department, which also prints the text of the courageous declaration made last year by the PROK Assembly. We believe that URC members will feel a certain pride at being asked for fellowship and co-operation by such a Church at so significant a time.

¹⁵ Ways are being sought of assisting immigrant workers in Birmingham through the appointment of a former missionary in India to the staff of Seva Sadan House, to be supported by CWM and the West Midland Province of URC.

John E. M. Gilbey, *Chairman*

Boris Anderson, *Secretary*

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MISSION AND OTHER FAITHS

The Committee's manual *The local church's approach to those of other faiths*, which was authorised by last Assembly for circulation to Councils and local churches, has been widely discussed and produced a variety of comment, ²⁵some complimentary, some critical. The Committee is grateful for this response. The specific resolutions on the use of church property by other religious groups provoked little comment, and the Committee hopes therefore that they are seen to combine right consideration for the needs of people of other faiths with sensitivity to what is appropriate in the use of our buildings. ³⁰Comments on the section of the Manual dealing with the Christian attitude to those of other faiths indicate that a wide divergence of view exists within the Church on this important question. That is hardly surprising as the multi-religious nature of present-day Britain has posed the problem for many Church members in a new way. The Committee believes it to be essential for ³⁵the Church to continue to address itself to the questions raised in the original document: What is God doing in the other religions of the world? Has He revealed himself to those outside the Christian faith? How is the uniqueness of Jesus to be related to revelatory experiences given to those who do not know Him? Other important issues raised in replies to the document were: ⁴⁰the danger that sympathy for the religious belief and practice of those of other faiths may degenerate into syncretism; and the need to retain a sense of urgency in the proclamation of the Gospel while remaining open to what God may be saying to us through the experience of men of other faiths. The final word on the subject has not yet been spoken. The comments received ⁴⁵are being collated and the Committee accepts that part of its continuing work is to review the original document in anticipation of producing something more adequate to the problem at a later stage.

4. The Assembly welcomes the request for a closer relationship with URC made by the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea and agrees that that relationship shall be based on co-operation in the following spheres of activity.
 1. Exchange of information, including reports of new developments in the life of both Churches.
 2. Provision of scholarships at Selly Oak or elsewhere for Koreans recommended by the PROK.
 3. Mutual visits for consultation or observation as opportunity arises.
 4. Occasional participation in a joint project in Korea, the U.K. or elsewhere through means of a grant or in other ways.
 5. The Assembly agrees that the Revd R. H. Lewis continue as the Church's consultant on Jewish affairs for a further three year period, June 1975 to June 1978.
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CHURCH AND SOCIETY DEPARTMENT

Chairman: The Revd John Johansen-Berg, M.A., B.D.

Secretary: The Revd John P. Reardon, B.A.

Renewal "Where there is no vision, the people perish." So we are told in ⁵the Book of Proverbs. What is said applies to the Church as an institution. It is easy for us to become so concerned with the working of the ecclesiastical machine that we forget why the machine exists in the first place. It is imperative that within the U.R.C. we take time to stand back and assess the effectiveness of our structure as an aid to carrying out the fundamental tasks of the Christian ¹⁰Church. Within our Department searching questions have been asked resulting from the discussion of a paper, "While there's death, there's hope," presented by Brian Wren, one of our members. We are still involved in following up this discussion; assessing the role of the Department in the ongoing renewal of the Church, the search for alternative life styles amongst ¹⁵Christ's people and the expression of our concern for world development. It is against this background of a search for the right Christian expression of social concern and gospel witness that the continuing work of the Department should be seen.

Broadcasting The Advisory Group on Broadcasting has sponsored two ²⁰radio courses, one in the South and one in the North, and these have been well received. Many of those involved have since been approached by local radio stations to take part in programmes. Further courses are being planned.

Some assessment of the T.V. courses at the Churches Television and Radio Centre at Bushey has been made, resulting from reports by participants. ²⁵Whilst there have been criticisms, there has been sufficient favourable comment for us to continue U.R.C. participation at present whilst continuing to assess the effectiveness of the courses.

It has been agreed that two study boxes should be prepared, including video cassettes, study papers and other material. These should be available ³⁰soon and should prove useful to congregations and Districts in helping church members to become informed and critical television viewers.

The Advisory Group will be passing on comments, resulting from discussions in the Group and the Department, to the Annan Committee on "The Future of Broadcasting". The Central Religious Advisory Committee has made a ³⁵submission on the subject of religious broadcasting.

We are passing through a key phase in the history of broadcasting and this is a time when Christians should be giving careful thought not only to the content and presentation of religious broadcasting but to the standards of broadcasting generally and the way in which the Church realises the

potential of the media in its own training courses and in the commitment of individual Christians who find their vocation in this sphere. The Church of England has produced a major report on broadcasting and in many local areas the advent of local radio has led to increased ecumenical co-operation⁵ in this field. We are fortunate to have in our Advisory Group an expert group of people who can guide us on matters of policy and also assist us practically in the setting up training courses. We would commend this subject as one of continuing concern to congregations and Districts, especially in relation to the development of local radio and the potential in that development for¹⁰ effective Christian participation.

Population Study Kit We are sorry that this Study Kit was not available as hoped, in World Population Year. The vast problems arising from the increasing world population are still very much with us and have been highlighted by recent world food shortages. The World Population Conference at¹⁵ Bucharest, attended by two members of the Department in other capacities, has given us additional material for study. The kit therefore has been updated with some additional material and we hope to report verbally at the Assembly on the date when the kit will be available.

Personal Ethics Arising from a discussion at last Assembly, we undertook to²⁰ engage in some study of problems in the area of personal ethics. A preliminary group has met and set out for the Department the main areas of concern in this field. We realise that the field is too wide for us to be able to carry out an effective study without some limitation of the area and so decided to ask a working party, including some representatives of the Youth Committee, to²⁵ study, in particular, ways in which the churches can offer help to both the young and the middle aged to enable them to understand human relationships and sexual development. The working party will also attempt to offer help in assessing the significance of and the Christian response to the many recent publications which link the sexual revolution of modern times with³⁰ political philosophies.

Education Various aspects of education are the concern of three of the Departments of our Church and it became obvious that in view of a number of factors it would be most helpful to have an interdepartmental group to look at the whole subject. It has been agreed that our own Department should set³⁵ up a working party which will be concerned not only with the field of religious education in view of any possible changes in the 1944 Act, but also with a variety of pressures within our educational system at a time of rapid changes. We recognise that the study is one of ecumenical concern and the Department is consulting with the B.C.C. Education Committee to see if there is any way in⁴⁰ which the working party can contribute to its thinking. The Department would be interested to know of any work being done ecumenically in the Provinces on educational matters which could help the working party.

Provincial Work The Department tries to keep a two-way traffic between the Central Committee and the Provinces and Districts. Some Provinces have⁴⁵ undertaken work on behalf of the Department and at each meeting of the Central Committee Provincial representatives may report on the work in

their areas. Provincial Committees have actively encouraged the appointment of Church and Society correspondents in each church to try to ensure that social and international issues find their place in the programmes of the churches.

⁵ Several Provinces have stimulated interest in local radio suggesting ways in which the churches could use the mass media for reporting on events and raising current issues of Christian concern. From several Provinces there are reports of increased interest in local radio training.

There is widespread concern about the pressures on family life today and ¹⁰some Provinces have studied aspects of this subject. Yorkshire is promoting studies on the family including the mid-life crisis, retirement and the pressures of work. Similar problems have been studied in Mersey with emphasis on such matters as the effect of nervous breakdowns on family life and the lack of adequate facilities for homework for many children. The North West has ¹⁵completed a study on marriage, raising, among other issues, interesting questions about the relationship of civil and religious rites.

Related to family problems is the widespread phenomenon of homelessness in our society and the housing needs of the community have been studied in Thames North and the South West. In both Provinces a special interest has ²⁰been the plight of students away from home. Churches have been urged to bring this matter to the attention of their members in the hope that accommodation can be found. Yorkshire has made contact with the British Churches Housing Trust concerning the use of church land for housing developments.

The Department has been asked to give advice on the use of chance in ²⁵church money raising, and the Northern Province has undertaken to study this matter as a basis for wider consideration. Evidence from churches and Provinces suggests that gambling still attracts Christian concern and study. The address of Canon Ronald Preston to the Churches Council on Gambling has been used in several places as a basis for discussion.

³⁰ Following the initiatives of the Department in the past two years several matters continue to find a place in the meetings of Provinces, Districts and local churches. In the past year a new interest in industrial mission has been found through study and discussion of the Statement included in last year's Report to the Assembly. Non Violent Action conferences and meetings ³⁵have been arranged using the Department's report published by S.C.M. Press.

While Provinces have tended to concentrate on practical issues affecting the lives of Christians and the people in their local communities, some have studied fundamental questions about the kind of society we live in and the ⁴⁰role of Christians in society. The West Midlands have prepared a study paper on "A Just Society" and the Southern Province has debated the issues raised by the French document "The Church and the Powers".

The Department has been grateful to the provincial representatives for their regular reports and looks forward to increasing co-operation between the Central and Provincial Committees.

World Food Crisis At the October meeting of the Department Jonathan Power, the Secretary of the Peace Committee of the Roman Catholic Justice and Peace Commission, was invited to speak about the world food crisis. He had been commissioned by the World Council of Churches to prepare a document for use in the churches in connection with the World Food Conference in Rome.

He spoke of the way in which the world's grain reserves had been depleted by poor harvests and by the bulk buying of grain by the Russians in 1972. Changes in the world's weather patterns causing flooding in some areas, droughts in others and a shortening of the growing periods in many countries had had a marked effect on cereal production. The continuing growth of world population, the high price of agricultural inputs such as fertilisers and pesticides and the ever-increasing demand for high protein diets had all combined to cause food shortages. He forecast that 1975 would be marked by widespread famines, particularly in Asia and Africa, unless the developed nations could take immediate measures to provide grain for the countries most seriously at risk.

The Department decided to give priority to the food crisis and within days, prior to the World Food Conference, a meeting was called of representatives of all denominations, aid agencies, missionary societies and development organisations. Agreement was quickly reached that a political campaign should be launched to persuade the Government and the European Community to take action to play a part in averting famine.

It was decided that for the first nine months of 1975 a FOODSHARE Campaign should co-ordinate the activities of the Churches and the other organisations to draw attention to the crisis and exert political pressure. A Foodshare Manifesto was drawn up and signed by the leaders of all participating bodies.

The Manifesto, which has been circulated to all the churches, calls upon the Government to press the European Community to double its food aid from 1.3 to 2.6 million tons, and urges the Government to help pay for the grain. It asks for the U.K. contribution to the U.N.'s fertiliser fund to be increased from 25,000 to 50,000 tons, and calls for a high-level study of possible economies in food consumption patterns in Britain. Individuals are asked to examine their own eating habits and to adopt economies as a symbol of their desire for political action, and to support the food programmes of the aid charities.

The Department has played a full part in Foodshare and the Departmental Secretary is the Chairman of the Campaign. A leaflet printed by the Department giving the facts about the situation and outlining the long-term solutions has been widely used in our own and other churches.

The World Food Conference concentrated on the problems of food production and food security realising that the international community must ensure that all the world's people are adequately fed and safeguarded against fluctuations in food supply caused by poor harvests and mal-distribution. Although the Foodshare Campaign has been concerned with the immediate

problems of food shortages in 1975 the Department believes that the provision of adequate diets for all mankind will be a continuing priority for many years to come. The Campaign provides a useful basis for further co-operation between Churches and development agencies in the future.

⁵**World Development Appeal** The 1974 World Development 1% Appeal provided a useful link with the Foodshare Campaign with its theme "That They May Reap". Many churches presented the Appeal to their members at harvest festivals and several churches participated in the Appeal for the first time. Because the Appeal is undated some churches chose to support it on Remem-
¹⁰brance Sunday, at Christmas time or during Lent. The projects have been chosen with the help of C.W.M. and Christian Aid and churches were again encouraged to send one tenth of their total to the World Development Movement for its political and educational work. A verbal report to the Assembly will give the financial results of the 1974/5 Appeal.

¹⁵ The Department has appointed a working party to advise it on future appeals and to study ways in which the Church could more adequately reflect ecumenical understanding of world development. The working party has studied the documents on development produced by the World Council of Churches' Commission on Participation in Development, with their
²⁰emphasis on social justice, self-reliance and people's participation as the three strands of the development process. Future appeals should reflect these emphases and the working party believes that the 1% Appeal should also include some recognition that there are projects in this country which deserve Christian support.

²⁵ It is proposed to bring a fuller report to the 1976 Assembly but meanwhile it is hoped that churches will examine their own programmes of development education and contribute to the Department's study. A consultative document will be sent to the churches to help them to share in the Department's re-
³⁰appraisal of its world development programme and churches are urged to send their comments to the Department before the end of October 1975. The document will be circulated in the June Information Service.

Ireland Events in Ireland have moved swiftly and there has been continuing tragedy. We have continued to watch progress there carefully, have shared the hopefulness of those who have continued to work in a difficult
³⁵situation for reconciliation and peace and shared in the sorrow of those who have seen carefully nurtured relationships shattered time and again by violence. Those who bear responsibility in church and community in Ireland need all the support we can give them in prayer and encouragement. What-
⁴⁰ever the eventual outcome, we place on record our gratitude to those churchmen whose initiative led to the ceasefire over Christmas and the following negotiations between Government and Sinn Fein representatives. The continuing conflict in Ireland will not come to an end until the parties involved come together to find a realistic and just solution. Any move in that direction must be welcome to those who hope and pray for peace in Ireland.

⁴⁵**Southern Africa** Last Assembly, we spent some time on discussion of investment in Southern Africa and a responsible Christian approach to it.

Since that time there has been a search for the right ecumenical instrument to express our common concern. Most denominations, including our own, seem now agreed that "Christian Concern for Southern Africa" is able to offer that ecumenical service. C.C.S.A. has changed its own composition in order that it might be more representative of the denominations and the churches in their turn have given some financial support. The Methodist Church has led the way in making a realistic contribution. We had already made a token contribution to express our support and we are currently engaged in discussion to determine the right level of support for the future.

There has been some discussion recently of the question of loans to Southern African governments by banking consortia including the Midland Bank in the U.K. It is evident that massive financial support in this way can give encouragement to governments whose internal policies are repressive. This is another of those issues on which the churches can best act together in making an approach to the banks concerned in order to encourage them to reassess policies. It is hoped therefore that this concern might be expressed through the B.C.C. or in some other way ecumenically. Currently the situation in Southern Africa is undergoing considerable change and this needs to be assessed in any action taken. For the same reason the B.C.C. is not at present following up on the work already undertaken concerning the discouragement of emigration to Southern Africa. Time needs to be given to assess how far the current changes of attitude may go in the direction of alleviating the unjust situation still so evident in much of Southern Africa. Our Department is consulting both with our own Finance Department and with C.C.S.A. in expressing our own Church's concern in these matters.

Taiwan continues to be a matter of concern and we, in consultation with the World Church and Mission Department, continue to exert whatever pressure is possible through letters to the press, contact with Members of Parliament and association with those who share this concern, both in our own country and elsewhere. The steps taken by Chiang Kai Shek's Government to publicise its views in this country are some measure of the effectiveness of the campaign to date. It is important that the pressure should not be relaxed. We are grateful to those congregations which have contacted local M.P.s on this issue and we hope we can continue to bring to the attention of our Government the rights of the people of Taiwan to self-determination.

Korea There has been ecumenical concern about the state of affairs in Korea where church workers and others have been arrested and imprisoned. We recognise parallels here with other international situations where Christians are facing difficulties. It is significant that in such a tense situation the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea unanimously adopted a report from its Church and Society Committee in September, 1974. It is worthwhile for us to quote this Declaration in an appendix not only because it will inform our prayers for Christians in a difficult situation but also because it illustrates the courage of a sister church in speaking out prophetically on matters concerning its nation. We assure the Assembly that we shall watch carefully the developments in Korea and we commend the people there, especially church workers and others in prison, to the prayerful concern of our members.

Ecumenical Links The British Council of Churches is now operating its new structure and we are represented on the relevant committees, including the Division of Community Affairs and the Division of International Affairs. This ensures a very helpful two-way flow of information and means that ⁵quite often an issue which one denomination considers of great importance can be taken up at an ecumenical level and, in other cases, a denomination can service a piece of research on behalf of all the churches. Particularly helpful at present is the information available concerning attitudes in the European Economic Community through the Churches Centre in Brussels. ¹⁰It may be felt right in view of the impending referendum on British membership of the E.E.C. that we circulate something in the way of background information which would be helpful to individuals in considering this subject, and the Department is bearing this in mind. Meanwhile we are trying to ensure a wider circulation of some of the literature from Brussels so that representatives in ¹⁵Provinces will be able to advise interested people in congregations of sources of information on a topic which will be vitally important for our people in the immediate future.

CHURCH AND SOCIETY REPORT: APPENDIX

DECLARATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

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The 59th General Assembly of this Church declares its stand and viewpoints as follows, in the name of Jesus Christ, the Head of the Church, in regard to matters both at home and abroad, about which the Korean Church is concerned today.

²⁵1. 1. We know that our fellow Church workers and other fellow Christian believers who have been arrested, acted as patriots, and that their actions are an expression of freedom of Christian faith and conscience, and we pray in our Lord's name that although they are in prison, they may believe that they are sharing in the suffering of Christ, and that ³⁰more than ever, God will give them happiness, comfort, wisdom, courage and faith.

2. Our Church views such arrests and imprisonment as resulting from the expression of political viewpoints as citizens of a democratic country, and as such, a violation of the basic human rights that belong to all who ³⁵have been created in the image of God. Therefore, we demand the Government authorities to have this stopped immediately.

3. Our Church urgently demands that since the related Presidential Emergency Decrees have been lifted, that the Government authorities immediately release all those who have been imprisoned for violating ⁴⁰them—religious workers (ministers, priests, evangelists, Student Christian Movement workers), students and others.

2. 1. The Church strongly demands that a genuine democratic system—the very backbone of the nation—be immediately restored to our country, and that political steps be taken to assure a real separation of the three branches of Government, and to secure the basic rights of the people.

2. We demand that the present Government cease the practice of politics by intelligence agencies, and make it possible for the people to give spontaneous patriotic service, with freedom of speech and the press, freedom of the campuses, and freedom for the Mission of the Church being guaranteed.

3. We solemnly pledge that we will resolutely reject any political group or power structure of our country if it invades, violates or suppresses the basic rights of our people. We do this for the realisation of freedom and justice, in the name of the Lord of History, in whose judgement we believe.

3. 1. The Church expresses concern that our country is becoming isolated in the international field at present, while at the same time the North Korean regime's entry onto the international stage is obviously being developed. In the matter of the national security of our country, viewed either from past history, or from today's international political scene, it is absolutely necessary to maintain close ties with friendly nations, and, therefore, to this end, we believe that our Government's moral and political posture must be such as to enable it to receive the respect and trust of the governments and people of nations friendly to us.

2. We welcome, in principle, friendly and beneficial relations between Korea and Japan, but we hope that this, in any event, will be with mutual trust and respect, and carried out on an equal basis. In this regard, we demand that in its economic co-operation, Japan cease practising its indirect economic exploitation, invasion, and inhumanity, and that our Government carefully guard against unfair exploitation of our people's labour force, and guard against allowing polluting industries to enter our country, so that the interest of our people may be protected.

4. 1. The Church expresses deep shock and concern at the recent labour-management disputes at the Hyundai Ship-building Plant, and the laying off of large numbers of workers from industries, as is daily reported.

2. We see as a serious social problem, and a matter for deep thought and concern, the fact that of the elements of our country's economic growth today (capital, technique, resources, labour force), our one single investment is through our labour force, and yet when large numbers are laid off work, there is no proper protection of their rights, nor any guarantee or compensation for their livelihood.

3. While demanding that the Government authorities take responsible actions for securing the rights of labourers and protecting their interests, at the same time we urgently demand that the labourers be given the right to organise labour unions for the protection of their own rights, and that they be given the freedom to exercise their rights of group negotiation in labour disputes.

4. We deeply lament the corruption and injustice revealed in the alleged involvement of family members of some higher authorities in the purchase of smuggled jewels amounting to billions of Won, for their personal pleasure and luxury, exhibiting their worship of materialism, while many of their fellow countrymen can barely eke out a livelihood. Therefore, we ask the Government to root out this kind of social evil immediately, and ask that it show particular concern and implement measures to make our society one which will enable the just distribution of wealth, and equality of life and opportunity.

Conclusions

1. The Church firmly believes that the foregoing opinions and demands regarding society are in fulfilment of our prophetic mission, based upon the truth of God's word, and that they are clearly in accordance with our General Assembly's Social Pronouncements Guidelines issued previously.

2. Our Church pledges to affiliate with all the leaders and the 200,000 lay people of our Church, together with all Christian brothers throughout the world who share our convictions, in order to realise the above stated opinions and demands.

25 *September 27, 1974.*

The 59th General Assembly
The Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea.

RESOLUTIONS

1. The Assembly recommends congregations and Districts to play their part in the development and use of local radio stations and draws to the attention of congregations the availability of study boxes to aid training in radio and television techniques.
2. The Assembly requests all congregations and Districts to give urgent attention to the world food crisis, including a study of the Foodshare Manifesto, and urges all members to take the necessary practical steps and engage in political action to avert the worsening effects of this serious situation.
3. The Assembly asks that all churches will study the consultative document on world development to be circulated in the June Information Service with a view to sending comments to the Church and Society Department by the end of October 1975.

4. The Assembly records its gratitude to those church leaders whose initiative led to a ceasefire in Ireland and prays that this may pave the way for negotiations which result in a lasting peace through just solutions.
5. The Assembly expresses its prayers and concern for fellow Christians in Korea, commends the courage of the 59th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea in its prophetic Declaration, and hopes that there may be a speedy restoration of human rights in Korea, including the release of imprisoned church workers and others.
6. The Assembly urges H.M. Government to intercede with the Government of the Republic of Korea on behalf of imprisoned church workers.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT

Chairman: Mr. L. R. Palmer

Secretary: The Revd E. W. Todd

The Christian Church shares the common life of the time and place in which it finds itself. So, in 1975, the United Reformed Church is no less concerned than the rest of the community with the major problem of inflation which has put every aspect of our work at risk. What ought we to do about it?

2. Principally, we have to maintain the real level of the Church's income as far as we can. Basically this means that every church member, as part of his response to the call of Christian Stewardship, ought, at least once a year, to review his giving in the light of changes in his income and commitments. He will want to relate any increase in wage, salary or pension to an increase in giving. If the Church's income does not keep pace with wages and prices then something will have to be cut somewhere.

153. Every church will be reviewing its sources of income. One of our larger churches last year received over £3,000 from the Inland Revenue for tax refunds on covenants. Some churches could use covenants a good deal more than they do. It is essential that increases in regular giving should be matched by supplementary covenants to cover the additional contributions and there is no upper limit to the number of covenants to which a church member may subscribe. Income may also be increased, or expenditure diminished, by re-arranging the use of premises, perhaps in conjunction with other churches.

4. But there can be no doubt that 1975 and 1976 are going to be tough years. Nevertheless we are regarding the launching of the new Maintenance of the Ministry scheme as a top priority and we ought to ensure that our ministers do not suffer more from inflation than other members of the community. This does not mean, of course, that we can relax our efforts to meet our commitments under the Unified Appeal; over half of this goes to work overseas, much of which is for the remuneration of men and women who also are at the mercy of inflation and another quarter goes to pay for provincial Moderators and Church House staff who are affected by the same problem.

5. At a time of financial uncertainty it is particularly important that we should preserve the value of the property resources which our forefathers have handed down to us in trust. In conjunction with other churches, the United Reformed Church is seeking recognition from the government that the land which it owns is not imperilled by the proposed legislation on the subject.

6. Against this sombre background we rejoice to be able to report that in 1974 we managed to achieve the total target. This is not only heartening to those responsible for central finances of the U.R.C. but also a reassurance to the

whole church of the determination of church members everywhere to maintain the mission of the church at home and overseas. It may seem churlish to suggest that churches should endeavour to do even better in 1975; many have already set their budgets and may find it difficult to make any change in⁵ their plans. Regretably, however, the current rate of inflation is even higher than we had assumed when the 1975 Budget was drawn up a year ago. If churches were able to increase their 1974 contributions by 5% it would give a reasonable chance of breaking even in the current year.

In the paragraphs which follow, the Chairmen of Committees elaborate on¹⁰ some of their current concerns.

MAINTENANCE OF THE MINISTRY COMMITTEE

Chairman: The Revd John White

Secretary: The Revd E. W. Todd

Basic Stipend The Committee has been undertaking a realistic appraisal¹⁵ of the level of ministerial stipends. Over the last two to two-and-a-half years, we in common with others have been restricted by a 'pay freeze'. The level of basic stipend has been steadily slipping behind that in other professions and in industry. It has been estimated that in the current year, 1975, the average weekly earnings in Great Britain will be £54, or an annual remuneration of²⁰ £2,800. Even allowing for the fact that a minister is provided with a manse, maintained and kept in a reasonable state of decoration, (or alternatively a housing allowance), the basic stipend is still less than the national average. Further we have not kept pace with the stipend levels in other branches of the Church.

²⁵ The Committee was convinced that we must attempt to deal with this realistically. Accordingly it proposed an increase of £90 per annum from 1st January last and the Executive Committee of the Assembly agreed to this increase. As a result of this decision the basic stipend became from 1st January 1975 £1,440/1,490/1,540 according to years of service. This³⁰ increase of £90 however merely compensated to some extent for increases in other walks of life, awarded under 'threshold agreements'.

The Committee further proposes an increase from 1st July 1975 of roughly 20%, so that the basic stipend for the first ten years of service will become £1,750, for the second ten years, £1,800, and after twenty years, £1,850. The³⁵ Assembly will be asked to approve this. We must emphasize that this is but the first step in the attempt to deal with ministerial stipends. We appreciate that local churches will not find it easy to raise the additional sums required, but we are greatly encouraged by the response to our proposals so far and by the willingness of many to increase the amount available for this purpose.

⁴⁰ The former Congregational Churches not on their Fund will be raising the amount required. (If this is not possible, they can and should apply for help); those already on the Fund are being asked (and in many cases have agreed) to

do their best to raise more. And for the first time we are asking former Presbyterian Churches to accept an increase in the assessment from 1st July, instead of waiting until 1st January 1976.

Future Policy (a) General As we have said earlier in this report, the increases set out constitute the first step in our policy with regard to stipends. We have not yet raised the basic stipend to a figure which will stand comparison even with the level in many of the other Churches; and so long as inflation continues, we shall need to make periodic increases to keep pace with the diminishing value of the pound.

10 Along with this, however, there must be also what is termed in industry 'greater productivity'. The policy of grouping churches under one minister must be continued and extended. The ultimate responsibility for oversight of this kind must lie with District Councils; but it must be clearly stated that we cannot continue to regard as a full-time appointment entitled to the full
15 basic stipend, one which permits a minister to undertake two or three or more days each week in another paid employment.

(b) The Unified Scheme Last year we submitted an outline scheme of ministerial remuneration, and the Assembly called for comments from District Councils and Provinces, all of which have been examined and care-
20 fully considered (as were comments received from local churches and individuals). In the light of all these, a revised scheme has been prepared and is attached (Appendix 1). It differs in two main respects from the outline scheme.

25 (i) Stipends are now to be paid centrally. This alteration was in response to a widely expressed wish—indeed only two Provinces supported the idea of local payment and one of these stated that a large number of its members had accepted it only with the greatest reluctance. This has necessarily resulted in definite proposals regarding the payment of assessments.

30 (ii) The question of how to determine whether or not a pastorate was full-time also attracted a good deal of comment and the suggested Vacancy and Adjustment Committee did not commend itself. We have therefore followed a suggestion made by one or two Provinces and adopted the idea of a quota of ministers for each Province. Even
35 this will demand a good deal of overall planning and hence we are suggesting what is called a Deployment Committee.

Along with the draft Scheme, there is an explanatory memorandum (Appendix 2). It was felt that it would be convenient to include in this certain details which will need frequent review and adjustment. We regret that
40 we cannot give firm estimates for the assessment, but until the stipend level is more clearly defined and our information on the finances of local churches in this inflationary age is more up to date, that cannot be done. We shall need the fullest information for the year 1974 and we are asking the Assembly to authorise the issue of a form to collect the required data.

Other Matters relating to Stipends We are not proposing at this time to make any alterations in regard to Children's Allowances or to Car Schemes in former Congregational Group Pastorates. The latter is covered under the proposed new scheme. In regard to the former, these were first introduced⁵ before the provision of State benefits; in industry and the professions generally, the State provision has led to a gradual phasing out of private provisions of this kind. Nevertheless it did not seem to the Committee that this was the time to attempt any radical change in this regard.

Pension Arrangements In regard to both the Presbyterian Ministers' Pension Fund and the Congregational Ministers' Pension Fund, we are awaiting the results of actuarial valuations. These were hindered by the shortage of staff and the difficulty of compiling the necessary records for the actuaries. Now the valuation is in hand. A valuation of the Congregational Ministers' Friendly Society is also proceeding.

¹⁵ The whole subject of pension arrangements is complicated by the Government's proposals, which at the moment exist only as a 'white paper'. There is the further complication of the status of ministers of religion and whether or not they should continue to be regarded as 'self-employed'. A circular was sent to all ministers on this subject and in common with other churches the²⁰ matter is being kept under review.

Reference was made last year, in the supplementary papers on 'Pension Arrangements' circulated to members of Assembly, to the application to the Charity Commission in respect of the Congregational Pastors' Superannuation Fund and the Congregational Pastors' Widows Fund. As a result it was²⁵ possible to increase the scale of grants made, as well as to put up the income limits. Many expressions of appreciation have been received.

Housing in Retirement The Assembly last year approved the launching of an appeal throughout the Church for houses and funds to attempt to deal with this urgent problem which has caused and is causing considerable³⁰ anxiety to many. There have been delays and difficulties in dealing with this but a leaflet is now being printed and will be available before the Assembly. We are sure that the Church as a whole will respond.

This is not of course the only way of attempting to deal with this problem. Negotiations with Housing Associations have been undertaken and their³⁵ response has been sympathetic. Other solutions are also being explored. Although this section is headed 'Housing in Retirement', the Committee has not overlooked the needs of ministers' widows, and this aspect is included in all our planning.

Salaries of Deaconesses It was agreed by the Assembly last year, on⁴⁰ the recommendation of the Supplementary Ministries Committee, that the question of salaries paid to Deaconesses should be dealt with by the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee. The full increase approved by the 1974

Assembly operative from 1st July 1974 of £120 per annum was not implemented as the Pay Board would not sanction more than £117 per annum. In view of the increase in the basic stipend from 1st January 1975, approved by the Executive Committee, an increase in the salaries for deaconesses of £73⁵ per annum was also approved by the Executive Committee, operative from 1st January 1975. This had the effect of bringing the salary in the first period of service up to £1,110 per annum, with increments of £50 for each five years of service up to a maximum of £1,310.

In view of the proposed increase in the basic stipend from 1st July next, ¹⁰the Committee recommends that there should be an increase in the salaries paid to deaconesses; with the agreement of the Supplementary Ministries Committee it is proposed to make the increments come into effect at intervals of 10 years. We are recommending that for the first ten years, the salary should be £1,500 per annum; for the second ten years, £1,550, and after twenty ¹⁵years, £1,600, with effect from 1st July 1975. Further, we have asked the Supplementary Ministries Committee to look at the question of status and to bring a report to the Executive Committee. It is only after such a report that the question of parity with the basic stipend can be settled.

TREASURERSHIP COMMITTEE

20

Chairman: Mr. K. W. Thorndyke

Secretary: Mr. P. A. Thorne

In some ways 1974 was a frustrating year. Against a background of staff difficulties we have faced an unexpectedly large number of accounting problems as we have sought to integrate the two accounting systems we ²⁵inherited, and to determine the basis of apportionment of funds to the non-uniting churches; without the help of Committee members, the full time staff could not have coped. It is clear that the staff needs strengthening if the operation of trusts is to be efficient.

The scope of the Committee is such that it has been necessary to delegate ³⁰a good deal of work to small groups of Committee members. In addition to the permanent sub-committees on investment, salaries of central staffs and Church House maintenance, there are working parties dealing with such subjects as staff houses, use of a computer bureau and trust deeds.

In conjunction with the Church and Society Department, the search ³⁵continues for an ecumenically based method of monitoring the activities of those very small number of South African enterprises in which we have a financial interest. At the moment of writing, the Committee is considering the possibility of using the services of Christian Concern for Southern Africa. Two earlier schemes have, unfortunately, fallen through.

DEVELOPMENT IN NEW AREAS AND CARE OF EXISTING CHURCH BUILDINGS COMMITTEE

Chairman: The Revd R. G. Walker

Secretary: Mr. W. G. Nutley

⁵The Committee has continued to deal, within the limits of available funds, with applications from local churches, when supported by District Councils and Provincial Synods, for financial help, in loans and grants, towards the cost of maintaining or extending their premises.

The Committee has produced a paper—"Policy and Guide Lines on the use ¹⁰of central funds for grants and loans". This is to inform applicants of the scope and terms of grants and loans, and copies of this paper are available both at provincial level and at Church House.

The Committee has been obliged to recognise that there has been a considerable change in the property situation since the report to the Annual ¹⁵Assembly. On the one hand it is inopportune to set up the proposed development fund. But, with impending legislation on the subject, it is important that there shall be consultation between the various denominations and that our own churches shall have the benefit of professional guidance in the present complicated situation. A property consultant has therefore been appointed ²⁰for one year in the first place. A copy of the memorandum sent to Provincial Moderators and Treasurers will be found in Appendix 3.

The Committee has been admirably served since the formation of the U.R.C. by its Secretary, Mr. William G. Nutley, who has, both at its meetings and between them, made his expert knowledge available in dealing with applica- ²⁵tions. Mr. Nutley has been obliged to resign this office because of the pressure of his work, and the Committee is sure that Assembly would wish to place on record its appreciation of his most valuable and conscientious service to the Church during this demanding period.

WELFARE AND EMERGENCIES COMMITTEE

³⁰

Chairman: Mr. R. J. S. Green

Secretary: The Revd A. L. Macarthur

The work of the Committee has continued, the various funds at their disposal being administered for the most part for the benefit of ministers and their families, sometimes in situations of distress. The Committee acknowledges ³⁵the help given by Provincial Moderators in bringing cases to its notice, and draws attention to this in order that any who wish to seek help for themselves or others in difficulty know to approach the Moderator concerned.

For the first time the money required to provide gifts, mainly at Christmas, for some of our retired ministers and to ministerial widows was met from the ⁴⁰response to the Unified Appeal: this annual act of remembrance of those no longer on full active service is known to be much appreciated by the recipients.

The funds available to help in the sphere of education of ministers' children have not been used to the maximum in the past year. Help to the Provinces is given towards the expenses of Ministers' Summer Schools.

The Committee acknowledges with gratitude the many years of service in the field of welfare of Mr. T. K. Hawkins who retired after the last Assembly.

THE UNIFIED APPEAL COMMITTEE

Chairman: Mr. G. Vaughan-Davies

Secretary: Mr. J. W. Paterson

1974 was the first year of the operation of the Unified Appeal and a total target of £474,000 was set. This represented an increase over the total level of giving in 1972 of 25%. In addition a further sum of £77,125 was required for the former Congregational Maintenance of the Ministry Fund. (This had previously been part of the Home Churches Fund quota, but it was desirable to treat it separately).

15 It appears that in 1974 we managed virtually to reach the target.

It had been hoped that in 1975 we would be able to restrict expenditure so that there need be no increase in the Unified Appeal for that year. It has now become clear that, with the continuing high level of inflation, an increase in giving will be necessary if present work and services are to be maintained.

20 The Committee is fully aware that it is of the utmost importance for information to be available for every member on how the Church spends its money. Last year a wall chart and explanatory notes were sent to every Church illustrating the appeal and how it works. Leaflets were also prepared describing how the Church distributes the money raised, to the work at home and overseas; 25,000 of these were taken by the Churches. A revised (and, we hope, improved) leaflet is now available, free of charge, and it is hoped that local churches will order at least one leaflet for every two members and ensure that they are used.

It is recommended that the Unified Appeal leaflet be used in conjunction with the material provided by the Council for World Mission: in this way an overall picture may be obtained on where the Unified Appeal money goes.

The task of the Committee is made difficult and uncertain because many churches do not pay Unified Appeal contributions until the end of the year, keeping the officers of the Committee on tenterhooks to ascertain whether we can make ends meet. Regular payments throughout the year would make things easier and would be much appreciated. The bills have to be paid month by month.

At present sums are allocated to the Provinces on the evidence of past giving. We are conscious that the Provinces and Districts have had difficulty in making their own allocations to local churches in new circumstances. The

experience gained in 1974 should make the task easier in 1975 and 1976. The Committee has considered other methods of allocating sums to Provinces but until a unified scheme of ministerial remuneration has been introduced it has been thought best not to change the present method of allocation.

⁵ We have experienced difficulty in obtaining the financial information we would like, mainly because of the shortage of staff in Church House. However, recent reorganisation promises to lead to an improvement in this field.

The Committee would like to thank the staff at Church House, and all Treasurers, whether at local, district, or provincial level, without whose help ¹⁰the responsibilities of the Committee could not be discharged.

LEGAL AND TRUST COMMITTEE

Chairmen: Mr. K. M. Kirby

Secretary: The Revd A. L. Macarthur

The Committee met in December 1974. Mr. E. W. Eldridge, a member of ¹⁵the Committee who was formerly The Public Trustee, kindly agreed to chair a small Working Party to examine the operation of the two Central Trust Corporations and the Incorporated County Unions and make recommendations.

Considerable discussion took place concerning the problems that arise ²⁰in the various types of ecumenical schemes that operate in relation to local churches. It was reported that the World Church and Mission at Home Committee in consultation with the Methodists had a letter of advice to local churches in an advanced stage of preparation which would in due course be issued as a letter of guidance. Attention was drawn to the existence of the ²⁵Consultative Committee for Local Ecumenical Projects in England, and to the Churches' Unity Commission which would obviously in its task of exploring the significance of such ecumenical schemes have to consult further about the best form of their development.

A draft of Local Church Model Rules was considered and referred for ³⁰re-drafting. Various other matters of legal concern to the United Reformed Church were reported by the legal advisers.

The Committee discussed its functions and recognised that the actual conduct of the legal work of the United Reformed Church could only be carried out by the legal advisers. While reference to an advisory legal group ³⁵could well be valuable when occasion arose, it was felt that the continuance of this Committee as such and with the consequent expense of meeting at least once a year, was unnecessary. The Committee accordingly recommended and the Central Committee subsequently adopted, for submission to the Assembly, a resolution dissolving the Committee and replacing it by an ⁴⁰Advisory Panel.

PUBLICATIONS AND PUBLICITY COMMITTEE

Chairman: The Revd R. T. Brooks

Secretary: Mr. P. W. Bush

The committee's business is communication. A mainly internal service within the life of the Church was envisaged when staff and facilities were provided, and this has made it difficult to promote a flow of information and ideas which will command the attention of both the Church and the community. This remains the committee's aim, however, and in the attempt to achieve it some members give active help to the work between meetings. This work covers four areas, each the responsibility of a small group.

Publicity Group

During the year the Revd Colin Evans retired from the leadership of this working party (with the grateful thanks of the committee for all he had done), and was replaced by the Revd Edmund Banyard, through whom we look to maintain closer contact with the Editorial Board of Reform. The group is concerned to collect and distribute information about developments in thought, action and worship throughout the U.R.C. In this area we are especially dependent upon voluntary labour, and a steady flow of significant news from the churches to the group is urgently needed.

General Publications and Services Sub-Committee

Chaired by the Revd T. A. Chadwick, the sub-committee has supervised the production of an increasing flow of new material. Some new information was incorporated in the Year Book and those who receive U.R.C. Information Service will have seen in the range of its material, evidence of the widening concerns of the Church. In addition to routine material, 1974 saw the production of 22 new leaflets etc., and 8 new booklets and kits—among them—The Manual, The Training Course for Elders, The Year Book and Diary. Items to a wholesale value of £8,000 were supplied to the Bookshop for sale.

Tavistock Bookshop Sub-Committee

This sub-committee chaired by the Revd D. W. Ager is grateful to Mr. A. E. Hockley and all his staff for the good results for the year. Sales increased by £10,000 to approximately £60,000.

Mr. Edmund Major has been appointed Assistant Manager of the Bookshop to succeed Mr. David Berry who has joined the Probation Service.

During the year £4,000 from the accumulated profits brought forward from earlier years was transferred from the Bookshop to the Church. We hope that more Members will take advantage of the services provided by the Bookshop. Reading is an important part of our Christian education.

Reform (Management & Promotion) Sub-Committee

The Revd Michael Hubbard, who chaired this sub-committee during the critical first two years of the magazine, resigned in December. He leaves with

our best thanks and with Reform established as a viable periodical. Not surprisingly, this viability required the raising of the cover price for a single copy to ten pence, from January 1975. The Revd Robert Duce has taken over the chairmanship and will lead the sub-committee in an active campaign to increase circulation.

Orders for 1975 have settled below 28,000 upon which costings were based, and with further cost increases (such as postage) seemingly inevitable, the committee appeals to all members of Assembly to treat the promotion of the magazine's circulation as a matter of urgency.

¹⁰ More subscribers are essential in 1975 if we are to avoid very difficult decisions at Assembly 1976.

New Church Praise

On behalf of the special Hymn Book Committee, the Secretary was responsible also for the negotiations which led to the happy arrangement for the Saint ¹⁵Andrew Press to publish New Church Praise.

RESOLUTIONS

Maintenance of the Ministry

1. The Assembly resolves:

²⁰ that with effect from 1st July 1975 the minimum rate of stipend payable to a minister in full charge shall be:

- £1,750 per annum for the first ten years of service;
- £1,800 per annum for the next ten years;
- £1,850 per annum after twenty years.

2. The Assembly resolves:

- ²⁵ i) that Rule 2 (1) of the Presbyterian Maintenance of the Ministry Fund be amended accordingly:
- ³⁰ ii) that with effect from 1st July 1975, an additional contribution be required from each congregation or joint pastorate belonging to the Presbyterian Maintenance of the Ministry Fund. This contribution will be based on the congregational income for the penultimate year—from which income shall be excluded for the purpose of such calculation amounts received as legacies, gifts in lieu of legacies, amounts spent on repairs and redecoration of church, church hall and manse, and contributions to the Fund in excess of the highest basic stipend. In the six months from 1st July 1975—31st ³⁵ December 1975 this additional contribution shall be 2p per pound of such congregational income, payable in two instalments along with the quarterly assessment due as at 30th September 1975 and 31st December 1975.
- ⁴⁰ iii) that with effect from 1st January 1976, in any period before the introduction of the new Unified Scheme of Ministerial Remuneration, there shall be an additional contribution from each congregation or joint pastorate belonging to the Presbyterian Maintenance of the Ministry Fund, this additional contribution being at the rate of 0.5p per pound of such congregational income per month for each month from 1st January 1976 until the Unified Scheme is brought into operation.

3. *The Assembly resolves:*

that with effect from 1st July 1975 the minimum rates of stipend payable to a minister in a Scope (W) pastorate shall be:

£1,650 per annum during the first ten years of ministerial service;

5 £1,700 per annum during the next ten years of ministerial service;

£1,750 per annum after twenty years of ministerial service.

and the Scope OV maximum shall be £1,000 per annum from 1st July 1975.

4. *The Assembly resolves:*

10 that grants from the fund of the former Congregational Church to retired list B Evangelists shall be paid at the same rates which apply to grants from the Pastors' Superannuation Fund, and gifts from the Maintenance of the Ministry Fund of the former Congregational Church to widows of list B Evangelists shall be paid at the same rates which apply to grants from the Pastors' Widows Fund.

5. *The Assembly resolves:*

15 that for the year 1st July 1975—30th June 1976 the scale of Children's Allowances and the regulations of the Congregational Maintenance of Ministry Scheme as regards 'Other Earnings Deductable', definitions of 'scope' and 'pastoral expenses' and 'Car Schemes in Group Pastorates' shall remain as for the year 1st July 1974—30th June 1975.

20 6. *The Assembly resolves:*

that in the year 1st July 1975 to 30th June 1976 the allocation from the Congregational Maintenance of the Ministry to the Support of the Ministry in Other Situations be £8,000.

7. *The Assembly resolves:*

25 that in each specialised ministry assisted by the Maintenance of the Ministry Fund of the former Congregational Church, the maximum initial charge on the Fund shall not normally exceed one half of the basic minimum stipend for up to ten years of service.

8. *The Assembly resolves:*

30 that for the purposes of the Congregational Ministers' Pension Fund the basic minimum stipend for the year 1975—1976 shall be £1,750.

9. *The Assembly approves:*

35 the Unified Scheme of Ministerial Remuneration (as set out in Appendix 1 to the Report) and instructs the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee to bring it into operation as soon as possible.

10. *The Assembly authorises:*

the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee to obtain all necessary statistics, financial details and information required from local churches, group pastorates and other situations to be included in the Unified Scheme.

40 **Treasurership**

11. *The Assembly resolves:*

that the Accounts for the year ending 31st December 1974 be received and adopted.

12. *The Assembly places:*

on record its appreciation to Mr. K. W. Thorndyke for the services he has rendered as Chairman of the Committee since 5th October 1972.

Unified Appeal

⁵13. *The Assembly:*

(in view of the anticipated shortfall in 1975 owing to the even higher level of continuing inflation) appeals to local churches to make every effort to improve, if possible, on the 1975 targets, and suggests as a guideline a 10% increase.

Development in New Areas and Care of Existing Church Buildings

¹⁰14. *The Assembly notes:*

with pleasure the appointment of the Property Consultant on the lines set out in Appendix 3 to the Report.

15. *The Assembly places:*

¹⁵ on record its appreciation to Mr. W. G. Nutley for the service he has rendered as Secretary of the Committee since 5th October 1972.

Legal and Trust Committee

16. *The Assembly resolves:*

²⁰ that the Legal and Trust Committee be dissolved and be replaced by a Legal Advisory Panel to be convened by the General Secretary as and when occasion should require and to comprise in the first instance such of the present members of the Committee as are willing to serve.

Publications and Publicity

17. *The Assembly agrees:*

²⁵ that the continuation of Reform is important to the life and witness of the United Reformed Church and commends the promotion campaign to help to ensure its continuance and urges all local churches and members to support it.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION: APPENDIX 1

Unified Scheme for Ministerial Remuneration

Introduction

³⁰In the information supplied with the Scheme of Union it was made plain that in both the Presbyterian and Congregational Churches it was agreed that the Church had a responsibility towards its Ministers and their remuneration. Both churches had laid down a minimum stipend and had taken steps to ensure that this was met. This responsibility of the Church as a whole was ³⁵shared by each local Church. It was felt to be essential that as soon as possible the United Reformed Church should have a unified scheme of ministerial remuneration.

An outline scheme was presented to the General Assembly in 1974 and comments called for from Provincial Synods and District Councils. In the light ⁴⁰of these, the Committee now presents the following Scheme.

UNIFIED SCHEME OF MINISTERIAL REMUNERATION

1. **Objects of the Scheme** To establish a Unified Scheme for the United Reformed Church for the remuneration of ministers in its service and to ensure the provision of the necessary resources.
- 5 2. **Administration** The scheme will be administered by the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee who will recommend to the General Assembly any changes in the working of the scheme.
3. **Scope of the Scheme (a) Churches to be included:—**
 - 10 (i) Each local church of the United Reformed Church whether it constitutes a single pastorate, or forms part of a group of local churches served by one or more ministers (a 'group pastorate') or shares a minister with another local church, (a joint pastorate) or is too small to constitute a single pastorate and for geographical reasons cannot be grouped and for which spiritual oversight is secured in some other way (an 'oversight pastorate') ;
 - 15 (ii) Each ecumenical situation involving the United Reformed Church.

(b) Ministers to be included:—

 - 20 (i) Recognised ministers of the United Reformed Church serving a single pastorate or a joint or a group pastorate or holding a special appointment within a Province ;
 - (ii) Recognised ministers of the United Reformed Church holding full-time chaplaincies (to such number as shall be determined from time to time by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Committee) in the appointment of whom the United Reformed Church has agreed and whose remuneration is derived in whole or part from the United Reformed Church ;
 - 25 (iii) Recognised ministers of the United Reformed Church serving as Provincial Moderators or holding stipendiary appointments in the central offices of the Church ;
 - 30 (iv) Recognised ministers of the United Reformed Church holding appointments in Ecumenical situations approved by the Committee ;
 - 35 (v) Such ministers of other denominations working in Ecumenical situations or otherwise serving the United Reformed Church as the Assembly shall from time to time determine.
4. **Remuneration** The remuneration will consist of a basic stipend together with the provision of a house as set out below:—
 - 40 (a) *Basic stipend* The basic stipend will increase with years of service during the first twenty years of service, such increase being on the basis of ten yearly intervals. The basic stipend will be fixed from time to time by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee.

In the case of "oversight" pastorates (see 3(a) (iii)) the proportion of the basic stipend which is appropriate, having regard to the work involved, shall be determined by the Committee on the recommendation of the District Council forwarded through the Province.

(b) *House, free of rent, rates, etc.* For the purposes of these regulations, a house or manse means a home for the minister provided and maintained in good repair and decoration, free of rent, ground rent and rates. Where an allowance is paid in lieu of such provision, this will be assessed on a basis determined from time to time by the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee.

(c) *Heating & Lighting* The cost of heating and lighting the manse will be borne by the local church, or other appropriate body.

(d) *Children's Allowances*

(1) Children's Allowances will be paid in accordance with the following scheme:—

(i) Former Presbyterian ministers in full charge in the United Reformed Church will continue to receive or to be eligible for, children's allowances in accordance with the former Presbyterian scale in force at 5th October 1972;

(ii) Former Congregational ministers in full charge in the United Reformed Church and in (W) Scope pastorates, and all new entrants to the ministry of the United Reformed Church after 5th October 1972 shall be entitled to children's allowances in accordance with the regulations of the Congregational Church in England and Wales in force at 5th October 1972.

(2) The amount of Children's Allowances shall be according to the following scale:—

For each child up to and including the age of 4 years	£20 per annum
For each child of 5 to 9 years of age inclusive	£40 per annum
For each child of 10 to 16 years of age inclusive	£60 per annum

If a child of 17 years or over continues at school the allowance shall continue until the 19th birthday, when it shall cease.

5. **Car** It is recognised that in most cases a car is essential and the provision and maintenance of a car shall be the responsibility of the local church or other appropriate body. If there is no car, the cost of travel by public transport, on essential pastoral duties shall be reimbursed by the local church. In the special case where the minister has his own car, financial arrangements in regard thereto, satisfactory to the minister and the local church or other appropriate body, shall be agreed with the Committee.

6. **Expenses** Each minister will be reimbursed in regard to sums expended in respect of postages, telephone and stationery incurred on official business, either by the local church or the appropriate body, depending on the nature of the appointment.

5 7. **Assessments**

(a) In order to ensure the necessary funds for the remuneration of ministers, each local church shall be assessed on a basis to be determined.

10 (b) In the event of a local church being without a minister either in a temporary vacancy or because it is too small to warrant a full time ministry and it cannot be grouped with other churches in the neighbourhood, it shall be entitled to make an appropriate deduction from its assessment. Where there is a temporary vacancy, this deduction would normally be the cost of pulpit supply (including the travelling expenses incurred) on a scale agreed by the General Assembly. Where the services of a local pastor have been secured, this deduction shall be agreed between the Committee and the District Council (arranged through the Province), having regard to the financial arrangements made with the local pastor.

20 (c) The annual contribution to the scheme shall be the first charge against the income of the local church.

8. **Payments of Stipends and Assessments**

25 (a) The payment of the basic stipend appropriate to the minister's years of service (together with any children's allowances) shall be made monthly on the 27th of each month by the Central office.

(b) The assessment shall be paid at the rate of one-twelfth of the annual assessment on the 20th of each month by means of the 'Direct Debit System' of the Midland Bank Limited.

30 9. **Payment of Expenses** The local church or other appropriate body shall reimburse the minister or ministers in respect of out of pocket expenses (in terms of Section 6) on a monthly basis.

35 10. **Pension Funds** Since it is the rule under both the Congregational Ministers' Pension Fund and the Presbyterian Ministers and Widows and Orphans Fund that part of the annual contribution is paid out of the central funds of the Church, this portion shall be charged to the Maintenance of the Ministry scheme.

40 11. **Pulpit Supply Fees** Since in terms of Section 7 (b) the cost of pulpit supply may be deducted from the assessment, the scale of pulpit supply fees which may be so deducted shall vary with the assessment as determined by the General Assembly on the recommendations of the Committee. The scale so determined shall be in respect of two services; where only one service is involved, the figures for pulpit supply shall be one-half of those appropriate to two.

12. **Basis of Assessment**

- 5 (a) In order to provide the necessary funds for the payment of the basic stipend and children's allowances, the minimum contribution to the Maintenance of the Ministry Scheme from each local church or group pastorate or other body shall be based on membership and net assessable income as defined below :
- 10 (b) Net assessable income shall be based on the income of a local church received from all sources from which the normal expenditure for carrying on the work of the local church is met. But it shall be permissible to deduct from the total income of the local church sums spent on essential repairs and redecorations of the church, church hall, manse and on the provision and maintenance (including insurance) of the car provided for the minister.
- 15 (c) The assessment in any calendar year will be arrived at on the basis of so much per member plus so much per pound of net assessable income, these membership and income figures being for the penultimate year. The actual amounts will be determined by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee.
- 20 (d) In the case of oversight pastorates (Section 3(a) (i)) and Ecumenical situations (Section 3(a) (ii)), joint or group pastorates (Section 3(a) (i)), any reduction in assessment calculated as in (c) above, shall be agreed between the Committee and the District Council (arranged through the Province). Similarly a reduction in assessment will be permitted where the local Church has the services of and contributes in respect of a deaconess, local pastor or assistant minister, such reduction being agreed in a similar manner.
- 25 (e) In order to facilitate the calculations referred to in (b) and (c) above, each local Church shall forward to the Provincial office as requested an audited statement of accounts for the previous year, together with all necessary details and statistics. Each Province shall forward to the Committee each year a statement of the amount of assessable income for each local church within its area.
- 30

3513. **Deployment of Ministers**

- 40 (a) It is recognised that the deployment of ministers to the best advantage of the Church demands careful consideration. In the future, the needs of new housing schemes and full-time chaplaincies must be increasingly considered as well as the needs of local churches and group pastorates. Having determined the percentage of the total active ministry who can and should be engaged in these special ministries, the needs of each Province will be assessed and a quota determined.
- 45 (b) The determination of this quota will be the responsibility of a Deployment Committee appointed by and responsible to the General Assembly. It shall consist of ten persons, viz. a Provincial Moderator, a representative from each of the Supplementary

Ministries Committee and the Missionary and Ecumenical Work at Home Committee, the Chairman and Secretary of the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee, together with one other representative from that Committee, and the General Secretary, and three members appointed by the Assembly on the recommendation of its Nominations Committee: from this total number, the Assembly shall appoint a Chairman and Secretary.

- (c) The Deployment Committee shall take into consideration any special features of the Province and/or of any particular District within it, (e.g. a rural area), the total membership of the local churches, the population of the Province, and the number of Churches of other denominations within the Province. While any Province and its needs are under consideration, the Moderator of the Province and another representative shall be present to provide full information.
- (d) It will be the responsibility of the Province to determine those churches or group pastorates which constitute a viable whole-time pastorate, and thereafter the processes laid down in the Scheme of Union regarding the call of a minister by a local church (paragraph 9 (1) (vii)) and the concurrence of the District Council (paragraphs 9 (3) (i) and (ii)) will be followed.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION: APPENDIX 2

UNIFIED SCHEME OF MINISTERIAL REMUNERATION Explanatory Memorandum

²⁵In connection with the scheme now submitted, it was felt desirable to have some kind of additional leaflet, partly by way of explanation and partly to set out points of detail which may vary from time to time as the Assembly decides.

In the objects of the Scheme in Section 1 there is a twofold emphasis ³⁰(i) the provision of the necessary resources; and (ii) the remuneration of ministers in the service of the United Reformed Church.

(i) *The Provision of the Necessary Resources* It is clear that this demands an assessment on local churches which as Section 7(c) says shall be "the first charge against the income of the local church". The assessment is based ³⁵on membership and income—a basis which has been proved successful in the former Presbyterian Church and which has the merit of being easily understood. It is necessary to work on figures for the penultimate year so that all the information is readily available.

As regards income, the conception is of "net assessable income" and it is ⁴⁰perhaps easier to approach it from the standpoint of the other side of the accounts—the expenditure side. We think essentially of the income required to carry on the normal work of the local church. Money raised for special objects and for work outside the local church, e.g. the Unified Appeal—is not included. But from this, certain deductions will be allowed, viz:

- (i) Sums spent on essential repairs and redecorations of the Church premises and Manse;
- (ii) Money spent on the provision and maintenance and insuring of a car provided for the minister.

⁵ But the Scheme also provides for a possible adjustment of this assessment in certain cases, e.g. in a temporary vacancy (Section 7(b)) when the local church is put to the expense of pulpit supply or a more permanent vacancy when the services of a local pastor or deaconess are utilised. Other examples are Ecumenical situations. In all such cases the reduction in the normal ¹⁰assessment shall be arranged between the Committee and the District Council (acting through the Province).

Wherever possible, the reduction in the assessment will be an agreed amount so that the appropriate amount can be collected month by month. As the Scheme sets out, this will be done under the Midland Bank Direct ¹⁵Debit System and it is essential to keep the number of alterations to a minimum—otherwise the operation of the system becomes complicated and expensive. When in the case of a temporary vacancy the expense of pulpit supply is allowed as a deduction from the assessment, it will be dealt with by means of a refund—to avoid altering the monthly assessment.

²⁰(ii) *Remuneration of Ministers* The Scheme provides for the payment of the basic stipend. Many local churches have been in the habit of paying a supplement over and above the basic. It will make for convenience in regard to PAYE and in other respects if the total stipend is paid in one sum. It is proposed, therefore, to pay from the Central Office, the basic stipend plus ²⁵and to add the monthly amount of the supplement to the monthly sum required by way of assessment.

Moderators and ministerial members of the Tavistock Place staff have been included in the Scheme. This will shift part of the sum required under the Unified Appeal to the Maintenance of the Ministry Assessment: and of course, ³⁰the income from certain Trust Funds and Endowments will be brought into the Scheme on the other side.

The scheme provides for reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses monthly and for costs of heating and lighting the manse to be met by the local church. This is in line with the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1970 (Section 194) ³⁵and will avoid difficulties for the minister with the local Inspector of Taxes.

Section 4(b) of the Scheme should be noted when it says that the manse should be maintained in good repair and decoration. It is assumed throughout that the payment of the basic stipend is in respect of whole time service. It is very difficult to legislate as to what constitutes whole time service: clearly a ⁴⁰minister who is a chaplain at a local hospital and visits there once a week is performing a service for the church as a whole and although he may receive some remuneration for it, this does not militate against whole time scope. The case of a minister who spends four or five mornings a week in a paid teaching appointment is very different.

The oversight of ministers is the concern of the District Council and it is hoped that District Councils will take their responsibility seriously in this regard.

(iii) *Deployment of Ministers* It cannot be too strongly emphasized that the present situation as regards inflation and ministerial manpower imposes on the Church the necessity of using that manpower as wisely and as economically as possible. In industry great stress is laid on "greater productivity"; in the church, translated into other terms, this means that a minister must serve a greater number of people. There is, and there will increasingly be, need for ministers as chaplains, and in new housing areas, as well as in local churches or groups of churches.

It is suggested that a quota of ministers will be allocated to each Province, and that the District Council, through the Province, will have the responsibility of deciding where a minister is needed.

It is difficult to lay down precise guide lines: Section 13(c) indicates some of the factors which ought to be considered. Consideration of the number of members per minister must also come in. These are the people raising the money to support him and the rate of basic stipend is also relevant. *The Scheme and its Operation* depends on the co-operation of all our churches. If the assessments are not paid on the due date, overdrafts will be incurred, with consequent heavy charges. We shall also be dependent upon the prompt notification to the central office of all relevant charges.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION: APPENDIX 3

Property Consultant

At a time of increasing difficulty and complexity, it is important that a service be provided to the churches in matters relating to the use and development of their property. In accordance therefore with the decision of Assembly and with the approval of the Finance and Administration Central Committee, Mr. M. Foster Taylor of Chestertons, Chartered Surveyors, 75, Grosvenor Street, London W.1. has been appointed property consultant to the United Reformed Church.

The following guide lines have been agreed:—

1. The consultant shall be responsible (in the first instance) to the Committee for the Development in New Areas and Care of Existing Church Buildings.
2. His tasks will fall into three broad categories, viz:
 - i) Guidance to local churches where advice is sought by Provinces, Districts or individual churches—the acceptance, or otherwise, of the particular advice being optional on the part of local churches.
 - ii) Guidance to the New Areas Committee or Church House Staff and the carrying out of particular tasks commissioned by Church House, e.g. valuation of properties.

- iii) Representation of the URC on specialist committees, e.g., the Churches Main Committee's Working Party on new land legislation.

3. The following working rules will obtain:

- 5 i) Where individual churches seek advice they will wish to inform their District and Synod of their intention.
- ii) Where advice is sought, and for reasons of time or because of the nature of the enquiry, the consultant is unable to deal with the matter, he shall report the case to the Secretary of the Development in New Areas and Care of Existing Church Buildings Committee.
- 10 iii) The consultant shall report his visit and send a copy of his advice to the appropriate Synod Office.
- iv) Wherever the advice sought requires a visit, a contribution (towards the cost) of £10 plus V.A.T., irrespective of distance, is payable to the consultant.
- 15 v) The consultant shall be under no obligation to give further advice but shall be free by mutual arrangement to accept whatever professional agreement may arise in the oversight of any development that may follow. But the church will naturally have the alternative of pursuing a scheme using local professional oversight.
- 20 vi) The Development in New Areas Committee shall be responsible for commending the use of the consultant and shall give general supervision to the operation.
- 25 vii) If at any time a Development Trust is established, the help available from it shall be given by the Development in New Areas Committee, which shall be free to require the advice of the consultant in every such case.
- 30 viii) The arrangements including the retaining fees payable, will be reviewed after 12 months experience.

Leslie R. Palmer, *Hon. Treasurer.*

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION: APPENDIX 4

THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH HISTORY SOCIETY ANNUAL REPORT: 1974

The Society has completed another useful year. Two issues of the Journal⁵ have been made, the second containing the substance of the Annual Lecture given on May 6th by C. Gordon Strachan, M.A., B.D., Ph.D., on "The Reformed Tradition and the Pentecostal Movement." The Lecture was preceded by the Annual General Meeting, which approved the Council's recommendation to increase the Annual Subscription from 50p to 75p. Following¹⁰ the decision Council launched an appeal for new members which included the issue in October of a letter and folder to all local churches and to other potential members. New members during the year totalled 49. Against this few have lost three members by death, three by resignation and 23 by removal¹⁵ from the roll because of non-payment of subscriptions for 1972 or earlier years. At the end of 1974 membership stood at 570, which figure includes 41 member libraries. In addition there are 64 libraries which receive or purchase Journals.

The Council met three times during the year. One important subject for discussion was on how best to secure proper care by local churches of their²⁰ old records and the proper depositing with local archive centres of records of churches which close. Members of the Society are asked to help in this matter in any way they can. Council has asked all Provincial Moderators to appoint a Synod representative for the Society who would then appoint District representatives who would be asked to keep an eye on this important²⁵ matter and the care of other things of historical interest in their district.

A sub-committee of Council has examined the purpose and operation of the Society's Library and the recommendations of the committee have been welcomed. Mr. Watson has been working in the Library three days a week throughout the year and Mr. Esslemont two days. With Dr. Nuttall's help the³⁰ Society's almost complete collection of Parliamentary sermons (1640—1652) has been catalogued. A most valuable collection of C.U.E.W. and C.C.E.W. Council and Committee minutes has been arranged and catalogued. C.U.E.W. records date from 1830 and there are minutes and reports of the Home Mission Society dating from 1819.

³⁵ The Council wishes to express sincere thanks to all who have helped in all aspects of the work of the Society during the year.

STANDING ORDERS OF THE ASSEMBLY

Questions

1. (i) A member may :
- 5 (a) if two clear days' notice in writing has been given to the General Secretary ask the Moderator or the Chairman of any Committee any question on any matter relating to the business of the Assembly to which no reference is made in any report before the Assembly; and
- 10 (b) with the permission of the Moderator put to him or to the Chairman of any Committee any questions relating to urgent business of which such notice has not been given, but a copy of any such question shall, if possible, be handed to the General Secretary at the beginning of the morning session of the Assembly at which the question is to be asked.
- (ii) Every question shall be put and answered without discussion.

Notices of Motion

152A. By Provincial Synods:

- (i) A Provincial Synod may deliver to the General Secretary not less than six weeks before the commencement of the annual meeting of the Assembly notice in writing of a motion for consideration at the Assembly.
- 20 (ii) Any accepted notice shall first be considered by the appropriate Committee which shall report to the Assembly thereon. The report of the Committee shall appear on the Agenda of the Assembly with the notice of motion.
- 25 (iii) If the report of a Committee cannot be brought before the Assembly immediately following the receipt of the notice, then the notice and report shall be placed on the agenda for the next following Assembly unless the subject matter is otherwise to be considered by the Assembly but if the Provincial Synod giving the notice considers that the notice raises a question which merits urgent consideration then the notice shall stand referred to the Business Committee.
- 30 (iv) If a church or a District Council wishes to put forward a motion for consideration by the General Assembly then they shall submit the motion to the Provincial Synod for consideration, and if thought fit for transmission to the General Assembly at such time as will enable the Synod to comply with paragraph 2A (i) above. In the case of a church the motion must be submitted through the District Council.

2B. By Members of Assembly.

- 35 (i) A member of the Assembly may deliver to the General Secretary not less than 21 days before the date of the meeting of the Assembly notice in writing of a motion to appear on the statement of the business to be transacted by the Assembly in accordance with Rule of Procedure 2.1.
- 40 (ii) If the subject matter of the notice of motion to the General Secretary to be an infringement of the rights of a Synod or District Council through which the matter could properly have been raised, the General Secretary shall inform the member accordingly and bring the matter before the Business Committee who shall be required to advise the Assembly as to the procedure to be followed.

2C. General

- 45 (i) No such notice as is referred to in paragraph A (i) and B (i) above shall be accepted if the question raised is the subject of any report to the same Assembly,

or is capable of being raised as an amendment to any report before the Assembly, or has been the subject of any decision given to the Assembly within the preceding two years.

Reports

53. (i) Every Report shall be delivered to the General Secretary in time for inclusion in the statement of the business to be transacted to be sent to members of the Assembly under Rule of Procedure 2.1.
- (ii) If a report is for information only and makes no proposal for action, the motion on the report shall be "That the Assembly takes note of this Report".
- 10 (iii) If a report makes any proposal for action by the Assembly then the motion on the report shall first be "That this Report be Received", and immediately thereafter such recommendations as shall be necessary to express the action proposed to be taken.
- 15 (iv) It shall not be in order to move an amendment or a reference back motion to either of the motions set out in paragraphs (ii) and (iii) above.
- (v) If either of the motions included in paragraphs (ii) and (iii) above is carried, it shall not be deemed to commit the Assembly to the acceptance of any matter contained in the report.
- 20 (vi) If the motion "That the Assembly takes note of the Report" be carried, any member may move a further motion for expressing views on the whole or any part of the report or otherwise within the scope of the subject matter of the report.
- 25 (vii) If the motion "That this Report be received" is carried, the recommendations to implement the report shall then be moved in turn. When those recommendations have been disposed of, any member may move a further motion for expressing views on the whole or any part of the report or otherwise within the scope of the subject matter of the report.
- (viii) Any motion (or amendment) moved under the provisions of this Standing Order shall be submitted in writing to the General Secretary in sufficient time for circulation to all members of the Assembly before debate.
- 30 (ix) This Standing Order shall not apply to the Executive, Business, Applications, or Nominations Committees, or to any other Committee in respect of which the Assembly so decide.

Speeches

- 35 4. Speeches made in presentation of the report and motions of any Department and its committees shall not in aggregate exceed 30 minutes, save by the prior agreement of the Assembly on the recommendation of the Business Committee. The proposers of any other motion shall be allotted 10 minutes or such longer period as may be recommended by the Business Committee or determined by the Moderator. Each subsequent speaker shall be allowed five minutes unless the Moderator shall otherwise determine.
- 40 5. When a speech is made on behalf of a committee, it shall be so stated. Otherwise a speaker shall begin by stating his name and his accreditation to the Assembly.
6. Secretaries of Standing Committees and full-time officers of Departments who are not members of Assembly may speak on the report of the Department when requested by the Chairman concerned. They may speak on other reports with the consent of the
- 45 Moderator.
7. In each debate, whether on a motion or on an amendment, no one shall address the Assembly more than once, except that at the close of each debate the proposer of the motion shall have the right of reply, but must strictly confine himself to answering previous speakers and not introduce new matter. Such reply shall close the debate
- 50 on the motion or that amendment as the case may be.

8. The foregoing Standing Order shall not prevent the asking or answering of a question which directly arises from the matter before the Assembly or from a speech made in the debate upon it.

Seconding

- 5 9. No motion or amendment shall be debated or put to the Assembly unless it has been seconded. The seconder may, if he then declares his intention of doing so, reserve his speech until a later period in the debate.

Amendments

- 10 10. An amendment shall be either to omit words or to insert words or to do both, but no amendment shall be in order which has the effect of introducing an irrelevant proposal or of negating the motion.
11. No amendment shall be moved unless a written notice of its terms has been (a) submitted to the General Secretary before the Assembly opens, or (b) handed to the General Secretary during the Assembly, unless the Moderator otherwise decides.
- 15 12. If the Moderator considers that an amendment is of such a character that it cannot adequately be debated without previous distribution of copies, he may so decide and discussion of the amendment shall be adjourned until copies are available.
13. No motion or amendment which necessitates expenditure additional to that which has been provided for in the estimates for the current or ensuing year shall be put to the meeting unless and until the cost involved and the possibility of providing the additional amount has been considered by the Central Committee of the Finance Department, or in case of emergency by the Assembly Business Committee.
- 20 14. If an amendment is carried, the motion as amended shall take the place of the original motion and shall become the substantive motion upon which any further amendment may be moved. If an amendment is rejected a further amendment not to the like effect may be moved.
- 25 15. An amendment which has been moved and seconded shall be disposed of before any further amendment may be moved. Notice may be given of intention to move a further amendment should the one before the Assembly be rejected.

Alterations of motion or amendment

- 30 16. A member may, with the concurrence of the seconder and the consent of the Assembly, alter a motion or amendment he has proposed.

Withdrawal of motion or amendment

- 35 17. A motion or amendment may be withdrawn by the proposer with the concurrence of the seconder and the consent of the Assembly. Any such consent shall be signified without discussion. It shall not be competent for any member to speak upon it after the proposer has asked permission for its withdrawal unless such permission shall have been refused.

Closure of debate

- 40 18. In the course of the business any member may move that the question under consideration be not put. This resolution takes precedence of every motion before the Assembly, and as soon as the member has explained his reasons for proposing it, and it has been seconded, the vote upon it shall be taken, unless it appears to the Moderator that such motion is an unfair use of the rules of the Assembly. Should the motion be carried the business shall immediately end.
- 45 19. In the course of any discussion, it is competent for any member to move that the question be now put. Unless it appears to the Moderator that this motion is an abuse of the rules of the Assembly, the vote shall be taken upon it immediately. When an

amendment is under discussion, the motion shall apply only to that amendment. To carry this motion, two-thirds of the votes cast must be given in its favour. The mover of the original motion retains his right of reply before the question is put.

Voting

- 5 20. Every question shall be determined by a majority of the votes of members present and
- (i) voting as indicated by a show of hands unless the Assembly rules that there shall be a ballot.
 - (ii) To provide for voting under this Standing Order Tellers for each Assembly shall be appointed by the Nominations Committee.

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Dissent

21. The right to record in the Minutes a dissent from any decision of the Assembly shall only be granted by the Moderator if the reason stated, either verbally or later in writing, appears to him to fall within the provisions of paragraph 7 (10) of the Basis of Union. The decision of the Moderator shall not be open to discussion.

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Points of Order

22. A member may rise to a point of order or in personal explanation, but a personal explanation shall be confined to some material part of a former speech by him at the same meeting which may have been misunderstood. A member so rising shall be entitled to be heard forthwith.
- 20 23. The ruling of the Moderator on a point of order or on the admissibility of a personal explanation shall not be open to discussion.
24. A member may raise a point of order, offer a personal explanation or ask a question by standing in his place, in which event his words shall be repeated from the platform. Otherwise, no one shall address the Assembly except from a place indicated by the
- 25 Moderator.

Suspension of Standing Orders

25. Any one or more of the Standing Orders, in any case of urgency or upon motion made on a notice duly given, may be suspended at any meeting so far as regards any business at such a meeting, provided that three-fourths of the members of the Assembly
- 30 present and voting shall so decide.

Admission of public and press

26. Members of the public and representatives of the press shall be admitted to the Assembly unless the Assembly otherwise decides and they shall occupy such places as are assigned to them.

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Minutes

27. The minutes of each day's proceedings shall be circulated on the following morning and, after any necessary correction, sustained at the opening of the afternoon session. The minutes of the closing day of the Assembly shall be submitted at the close of the business and, after any necessary correction, sustained.
- 40 The substance of the minutes shall thereafter be published, at the expense of the Church, in the first available issue of the official magazine and a copy of the minutes shall be sent to each Synod, District Council and local church.

Record of attendance

28. A record of attendance at the meetings of the Assembly shall be kept in such manne
- 45 as the Executive Committee may determine.

Notes

